

Establishment of an Illinois Organic Growers Association

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Executive Summary: Interest in organic and environmentally sustainable production of specialty crops surged in Illinois in recent years. Growers and Extension experts need increased access to relevant production and marketing information. Growers, educators and industry representatives will benefit from educational exchange via farmer-to-farmer and classic Extension diffusion-adoption methods. This grant builds on the Jan. 2010 merger of the Illinois Organic Conference with the Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism and Organic Conference (ISCAOC). A visioning session for organic and sustainable growers was held where a participant survey revealed the need for an Illinois Organic Growers Association (IOGA) to facilitate planning and allow the organic community to develop sustainable educational and networking opportunities. This proposal outlines the establishment of IOGA and 2011 activities. Growers and industries will collaborate with educational (Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture Program, U of I Extension) and non-Profit (the Illinois Stewardship Alliance) to leverage existing resources in the region (New Agriculture Network) and nation (eOrganic) to bring networking and educational opportunities to Illinois organic growers. While the association will be broad-based and serve all organic production and products, resources supplied by the grant for speakers and events will only support specialty crop production.

Project Purpose:

The 2007 Ag Census recorded 280 organic farms on 18,514 acres, where over half of these growers are on small acreages less than 10 acres. The number of organic farms almost doubled in the five years since the 2002 Ag census when there were only 152 organic farms reported. Beyond the certified organic farm there are a large number of farms producing crops utilizing organic methods. These numbers indicate a significant number of new or transitioning farmers who need up-to-date information on growing and marketing their products. Because the organic community is wide spread and very diverse, educational and networking opportunities are difficult. There isn't one centralized place for information on Illinois organic production. The University of Illinois Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture Program has the most extensive website on organic production for Illinois environments (asap.sustainability.uiuc.edu/org-ag/).

For the past three years, three conferences and various field days have been held. These networking opportunities highlighted the need for a formal organization to facilitate the exchange of information. During the January 2010 Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism and Organic Conference (ISCAOC), participants in the organic track held a business meeting to discuss the formation of an Illinois Organic and Sustainable Grower's Association. Attendees (approximately 22-25 people) filled out a brief questionnaire (Appendix 1). That input is being used to develop draft by-laws for the organization.

The vast majority of attendees were interested in forming an Illinois Organic Grower Association (22 yes to 1 no). When asked to rank the potential functions of the organization, networking (knowledge exchange) and education (workshops, webinars, field days) were the top ranked functions. Policy impact ranked third, while farmer directed research and serving as a resource clearinghouse ranked fourth. When asked whether the organization should include both certified and non-certified organic producers, the overwhelming majority said yes (22 to 2). However, there was a lot of discussion about this topic. Most felt that the organization should be inviting to people interested in organic methods of production. Farmers who have participated in discussions are listed in Appendix 4.

Presently, a group of farmers, university and Extension personnel, and representatives of local non-profit organizations are working to formalize a mission statement and grapple with sticky issues, like what to name the group, by-laws, etc. that came up in that meeting and preplanning discussions. This grant will facilitate the planning and launch of the Illinois Organic Growers Association (IOGA; note this is a provisional name) and support the first year of educational and networking opportunities to Illinois specialty crop growers interested in organic and ecologically-oriented growing and marketing techniques.

Potential Impact:

The formation of an Illinois Organic Growers Association (IOGA) will support networking and farmer-to-farmer exchange among farmers interested in organic and sustainable production methods, promote and develop new and improved production methods that are State and Region specific, and, help growers support expanded markets for organic agricultural products. The Ag Census identified 280 organic farms in Illinois. Whether a member of IOGA or not, all organic producers in Illinois as well as producers utilizing organic methods to raise crops will benefit from the activities offered by the IOGA resulting in more and better quality organic produce available to local markets for consumers. While the association will be broad-based and serve all organic production and products, resources supplied by this grant will be used

exclusively for support organic crop production. This is the primary source of funding being sought at this time.

Goals and Expected Measurable Outcomes

The goals of this effort are to increase:

1. networking among specialty crop growers interested in organic farming and marketing techniques
2. knowledge and skill set of organic specialty crop growers in Illinois
3. increase the number and performance of organic specialty-crop farms in Illinois

Performance Measure	Benchmarks	Monitoring Methods
Goal 1: IOGA membership numbers and satisfaction	Association membership, anticipate an increase by of 25% during 2011 and a doubling of the number of participants in IOGA sessions	Program statistics will be collected from the conference and association administration. A nine-month post-evaluation of IOGA membership to determine desires for the association, input on by-laws and association administration, evaluate effectiveness of the outreach and membership drive, and to solicit input on topics or activities to take place at the 2012 Annual meeting.
Goal 2: Knowledge and skills about organic practices	Organic practices (weed control, pest control, fertilization, post harvest management)	IOGA and Extension will evaluate knowledge and solicit information about current practices immediately after technical sessions offered at the conference, summer meeting or field days and then follow up with a ten-month post evaluation survey designed to evaluate change in practices and perceived economic or environmental impact. Trends in learning, practice adoption will inform programming decisions.
Goal 3. Organic industry and acreage statistics	Number of: economically and environmentally successful organic growers and acres under organic production and, the amount of locally-grown organic agricultural products available in Illinois	IOGA will track the number of certified growers and acres devoted to organic specialty crop production: Data sources will include the Illinois Agriculture Statistics Service, NASS, ASAP's phone survey of local and organic growers, and compare these with data that can be obtained from NGOS, IDOA and Market Maker. Data will be reported to membership and on the website and used for strategic and business development planning by association and its members.

Workplan

Associated efforts respond to input obtained from organic growers in 2010 (described above) and will include but are not limited to activities: to bring together for cooperation and coordination all persons interested in the production, marketing, distribution and utilization of

organic agricultural products; to increase the knowledge and safe use of organic products; to collect and disseminate the best available information relating to the growing, harvesting, processing and use of organic goods and products; and promote the industry by provision of all possible services to members and interested persons through wide dissemination of information.

Initiation of an Illinois Organic Growers Association (IOGA)

- Planning efforts will be conducted throughout fall 2010 to develop an advisory board with provisional association officers that will serve as the visioning and conference planning committee. They will draft by-laws to be considered at the Jan inaugural event. This process will be facilitated using conference calls and email. Draft by-laws are under consideration by an ad hoc grower group (Appendix 2).
- The first Annual meeting will be held at the ISCAOC in Jan 2011. Sponsors of this conference include the Illinois Specialty Growers Association, Agriculture and Tourism Partners of Illinois, Illinois Department of Agriculture, North Central Risk Management Education Center, NCR SARE PDP, University of Illinois Extension.
- IOGA Board and officers will be elected at the association business meeting.

1) Supporting activities of IOGA association

- *IOGA Website development*
 - An association website will be developed by IOGA and Extension beginning in the spring and be online by fall 2011 with links to suitable educational resources, association information, resources and announcements for training and networking opportunities. Based on grower's expressed desires, this will need to include forum capabilities for them to exchange ideas and support discussion threads.
- *IOGA Advertising*
 - Brochures, etc. will be developed IOGA in the spring to promote the IOGA and its activities. These will be distributed to University and NGO partners for distribution at suitable events.
 - IOGA will host a booth at the Small Farms Expo – June, 2011.
 - IOGA Newsletter: An e-mail newsletter will be initiated in the spring to keep members up-to-date on IOGA activities. This will also include production and marketing information, Extension will provide university research summaries, farmers will provide on-farm research reports, links to resources that will make members more aware of relevant conferences, grower's issues, and educational resources (New Agriculture Network, ASAP, eXtension-eOrganic webinars, NCR-SARE, MOSES, and Extension).

2) Networking and Educational Opportunities of IOGA

- **Conference Sessions for Organic Specialty Crops Track at 2011 ISCAOC**
 - IOGA and Extension will plan and host the Organic Specialty Crops Track.
 - Organic Keynote speaker with the grant supporting honorarium/ travel expenses for the specialty crop sessions (Organic fruit, vegetable crops, and specialty crop grains).
 - Session and workshop instructors and moderator's travel expenses supported by the grant. Focus on issues for production, marketing and processing that are identified by IOGA planning committee members as issues of importance to them.
- **Advanced Organic Crop Course (1 day prior to the ISCAOC, Jan. 2011)**

- o IOGA and Extension will plan and host an annual Advanced Organic Course will be offered to encourage the development and adoption of best management practices for organic and sustainable crop production in Illinois. The 2011 specialty crop course topic will be determined by the IOGA advisory committee.
- o Instructor's honorariums/ travel expenses supported by the grant.
- o eOrganic transcription of course material for website supported by the grant

3) IOGA Field Days and Summer Meeting

To encourage networking and education via farmer-to-farmer exchange two Summer Field Days will be hosted by IOGA. Location and topics will be based on farmer feedback from the Advanced Organic Course and ISCAOC surveys. In addition, IOGA will support the Organic cash grain field day at Western Illinois University (Allison Farm). IOGA Board will determine the need for summer meetings at the field days to support the establishment of the association.

Timeline for ACTIVITY	WHO		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Advanced planning with advisory group	Board/Affiliates	X	X											
IL Specialty Grant Monthly Report	Project Coord.		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Plan program, recruit speakers and moderators	Board/Affiliates		X											
Organic Production Course	Board/Extension		X											
IL Spec Crop, Agritourism and Organic Conf.	Board/Affiliates		X											
IOGA Annual Meeting (elections)	Board/Affiliates		X											
Plan Summer IOGA meeting/field day	Board/Extension		X	X										
Advertising materials	Board/Affiliates			X	X									
First IOGA Newsletter	Board				X									
Establish IOGA website	Board/Extension			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
IOGA Field Day/ meeting with evaluation	Board/Extension							X						
IOGA Booth at Small Farms Expo, Decatur, IL	Board/Extension							X						
Second newsletter	Board						X							
IOGA member survey	Board/Extension									X				
Plan 2012 IL ISCAOC / Organic Course	Board/Affiliates									X	X			
Third Newsletter	Board										X			
Post-evaluation of Adv. Org Course	Board/Extension											X		
Fourth Newsletter	Board													X

Project Commitment and Oversight

All project resources will be devoted to support of speakers and sessions serving organic specialty crop growers producing horticultural, fruit and nut crops using organic techniques. Even though the association will also facilitate networking among producers of certified organic grains and meats, all funded efforts (evaluation of audience needs, knowledge base, changes in practices, and industry growth) will be devoted solely to specialty crops. The following individuals will work with farmers who have expressed interest in the association and a willingness to serve as officers (Appendix 4).

◆ Project Partners, Collaborative Alliances.

Michelle Wander, Associate Professor, NRES, University of Illinois, N-225 Turner Hall, MC-047, 1102 South Goodwin Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801; Phone: 217-333-9471; mwander@illinois.edu. Michelle will administer the grant and work with IOGA in the planning and implementation of organizational structure as a representative of the Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture Program. She works with eOrganic, a National producer of content for eXtension and will help

develop the organic tracks and support development of the IOGA administrative structure. As an association affiliate, she will assist with promotion and speaker coordination for the conference.

Ellen Phillips, Extension Educator, University of Illinois Extension, 6438 Joliet Rd., Countryside, IL 60525, 708-352-0109; ephillips@illinois.edu

Ellen has served on the Organic Task Force and conference planning committee and serves on the ASAP leadership team. She is also an eOrganic author.

Ellen will work with IOGA in the planning and implementation of educational activities and outreach. She will take the lead on the organic course and field day and help facilitate the newsletter.

Deborah Cavanaugh-Grant, Extension/Research Specialist in Agriculture, P.O. Box 410, Greenview, Illinois 62642, 217-968-5512, cvnghgrn@illinois.edu

Deborah is the Director of the Illinois Small Farm Program, NCR-SARE Coordinator, and ** She has participated in conference planning of both the organic and specialty crops conferences for years. She will work with IOGA in the planning and implementation of educational activities and outreach, supply information about NCR-SARE opportunities, distribute IOGA information at educational venues she participates in. She will support development of the IOGA administrative structure.

Wes King, Illinois Stewardship Alliance (ISA), 401 W. Jackson Pkwy, Springfield, Illinois 62704 217-528-1563, www.ilstewards.org; wes@ilstewards.org. The ISA is a membership-based organization and has worked on a variety of local food and farm issues over the years through research, policy advocacy and education but there has always been a common thread of working for environmental stewardship, economic viability of small farms and connecting rural producers with urban populations. The ISA will host IOGA and allow the association to grow as a chapter of the ISA, using its organizational status needed to partner with the Illinois Specialty Crops Growers Association.

Diane Handley, Illinois Specialty Growers Association, Administrative Assistant, Program Organizer for the Illinois Specialty Growers Association, 1701 Towanda Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701, Ph. 309-557-2107. Diane administers the IOSCGA conference. This includes development of promotional materials, provision of speaker support and the handling of finances. .

References

U.S. Ag Census <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/index.asp>

Letters of Financial or in-kind commitment:

Letters from Deb- SARE funds

Letter from Wes King- the ISA for use of the 50132 status and newsletter

Letter from Diane Handley- IOSCGA

Letter from Ellen- Field day

Budge Justification

<u>Draft budget</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Justification</u>
Personnel		
Ellen Phillips, Educator	1630	0.03 FTE
Student hourly	2400	5 hrs a week at \$10
Fringe	713	0.28
Travel		
		Travel driving for moderators, for airfare for speakers, for workshops,
Moderators, instructors (to be identified)	2250	5 instructors to attend IOGA conference (travel \$450) = \$2250
Speakers (to be identified)	3600	Three keynotes (one for fruit, one veggie, one grain) to travel to Springfield, assume flights of \$750 ea, hotel for two nights \$300ea), meals 100ea, and fees for transport, parking to and from airport (\$100).
Supplies		
Office	700	Office supplies such as software, folders, paper, toner, etc for ISA, Extension, IOGA
Contractual		
Honorarium and travel for field day farm hosts	400	Two days, \$100 each, plus travel
Other	0	
Communication		
Mailing	200	mailing to prospective association members, ASAP will do this
Speakers fees	750	\$250 honoraria for 3 keynote speakers for conference
Association advertisement	1000	design, lay out and printing of brochure, booth display, banner, etc.
Data collection	100	Surveys (extension to manage)
Phone	50	
Conference call	250	Conference call for planning committee to work together before conference (farmer planners)
Total	15,063	Sum of all
Expected support	5200	From committed and in kind (SARE and fees)
Total remaining	8843	
Indirect costs (10%)	843	
Total with IC requested	9728	

APPENDIX 1. Survey Distributed at the 2009 Conference

Questionnaire for Organic Business Meeting (Formation of Illinois Organic Farmer Association)

1. Are you interested in forming an Illinois Organic Farmer Association?

YES NO (if no, why not? _____)

2. If an Association were formed, what functions would best meet your needs (rank 1-6, with 1 being highest need and 6 being lowest need).

Networking/Knowledge exchange with fellow organic farmers

Education (workshops, webinars, field days)

Farmer directed and coordinated research (both on farms and at Universities)

Policy development and lobbying

Resource clearinghouse (a place to go to get the latest information about organic farming)

Processing (developing value added products) and Marketing your products

Other (please specify _____)

3. Do you feel that the organization should include both certified and non-certified organic farmers (i.e.; those who say they practice organic methods but haven't gone through certification)?

YES NO

4. What kind of leadership structure would be most reasonable for the Association? (rank 1-3 with 1 being best structure and 3 being least reasonable structure)

Farmer elected board, Executive Director (position and staff hired by farmer board)

Farmer elected board, partnering with an existing organization such as Illinois Stewardship Alliance (ISA), Illinois Specialty Growers' Association (ISGA) or University of Illinois Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture Program (ASAP) to name some examples of existing organizations

Existing organization such as ISA, ISGA or ASAP provides oversight and membership management

5. What would be a reasonable annual membership fee for this Association?

\$50

\$100

fee based on percentage of gross farm sales

APPENDIX 2.

ILLINOIS ORGANIC GROWERS ASSOCIATION DRAFT BYLAWS

(Draft 3, April 2010)

Established initially as a committee of the Illinois Stewardship Alliance?

ARTICLE I

Purpose:

This Corporation is organized and exists under and by virtue of the "General Not For Profit Corporation Act" of the State of Illinois. It is organized to: (1) support networking and farmer-to-farmer exchange among farmers interested in organic and sustainable production methods; (2) promote and develop new and improved production methods and (3) support expanded markets for organic agricultural products. Associated efforts will include but not be limited to the following activities: organization of gatherings to further the knowledge and safe use of organic crops, livestock and organic products; bringing together, for cooperation and coordination, all persons interested in the production, marketing, distribution and utilization of organic agricultural products; collecting and disseminating the best available information relating to the growing, harvesting, processing and use of organic goods and products; and providing all possible services to members and interested persons through wide dissemination of information.

ARTICLE II

Offices:

The principal office of this Corporation shall be located in Springfield, State of Illinois. Other offices for the transaction of business may be located at such places as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

ARTICLE III

Members:

SECTION 1. Classes of Members: There shall be three types of membership of the Corporation: "Producer," "Associate," and "Agri-Industry."

SECTION 2. Qualifications, Acceptance: In order to qualify and become accepted as a member, a candidate for membership must be accepted by the Board of Directors or by such person or persons as may be designated by said Board. Classification for membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

- a. **Producer Members:** Any natural person, partnership, association or corporation eligible for a voting membership in this Association shall have a reasonable financial or professional interest in the production, harvesting, processing and distribution of organically grown products as an owner, operator, and/or manager. Members share an interest in organic principles and sustainable agricultural practices and do not need to be certified as organic growers by the National Organic Program or other certifying bodies. Persons meeting the qualifications for voting membership, shall only be eligible for voting membership, and may apply for such voting membership in the association, submitting such application to the association, together with applicable membership fee.
- b. **Associate Members:** Any natural person, business organization, corporation, partnership, organic or sustainable grower's guild or club, or representative thereof interested in and supporting the purposes for which this Corporation is organized may apply for Associate or Non-Voting Membership.
- c. **Agri-Industry:** A company manufacturing equipment, supplies or some other related agri-business for the organic and sustainable agriculture industry, is qualified to become an

Agri-Industry member of the association. Agri-Industry membership provides full benefits of membership including the right to vote.

SECTION 3. Voting Rights: Only Producer and Agri-Industry Members of this Corporation shall have voting rights. Each Producer and Agri-Industry Member shall have one vote and shall be entitled to take part in and vote, in person or by proxy, at any regular or special meeting of members. Associate Members shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges of Producer Members, except the right to vote and the right to hold office.

SECTION 4. Certificates of Membership: The Board of Directors may provide for the issuance of certificates evidencing membership in the Corporation which shall be in such form as may be determined by the Board.

SECTION 5. Termination and Suspension of Membership:

- a. The Board of Directors may, by affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the Board, after due notice, suspend or terminate the membership of any member whose actions are detrimental to the Corporation's aims and programs. The Board of Directors may, by a majority vote of those present at any Board meeting, after due notice:
1. Terminate the membership of any member who no longer satisfies the "Qualifications" for membership in Article III, Section 2.
 2. Suspend or terminate the membership of any member who is in default in the payment of dues for the period specified in Article IV hereof.

SECTION 6. Resignation: Any member may resign by filing a written resignation with the secretary, but such resignation shall not relieve the member so resigning of the obligation to pay any dues, assessments or other charges theretofore accrued and unpaid.

SECTION 7. Reinstatement: Upon written request, signed by a former member and filed with the Secretary, the Board of Directors may, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the Board, reinstate such former member to membership upon such terms as the Board of Directors may deem appropriate.

SECTION 8. Transfer of Membership: Membership in the Corporation is not transferable or assignable.

ARTICLE IV

Dues:

SECTION 1. Annual Dues: The annual membership fee for all members shall be as follows: \$50 (Producer); \$50 (Associate); \$100 (Agri-Industry).

SECTION 2. Payment of Dues: The annual membership dues for each Producer, Associate, and Agri-Industry Member of this Corporation shall be payable on or before January 1 of each year.

SECTION 3. Dues not Refundable: Dues paid to this Corporation are not refundable under any circumstances.

SECTION 4. Default and Termination of Membership: When any member of any class shall be in default in the payment of dues thirty days after the beginning of any of his/her membership years, he/she may, upon such default alone, be terminated by the Board of Directors in the manner provided in Article III of these By-laws.

ARTICLE V

Board of Directors:

SECTION 1. Number, Qualifications: The business property of this Corporation shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Directors of not less than eight (8) members. The Board of Directors may appoint one or more ex-officio members. Appointment of such members shall increase the number of Directors.

SECTION 2. Terms: Directors elected shall serve two (2) years. The initial term of Directors shall be decided by drawing lots for two- and one-year terms of office respectively. Representatives of affiliate groups may be non-voting ex-officio members to be appointed annually.

SECTION 3. Nomination: The President shall appoint a committee to nominate new Board members. The committee chair will report a slate of nominees at a Board of Directors meeting (prior to annual meeting) for approval. Insofar as possible, nominees for Directors shall represent all segments of the organic farming industry. Election will be conducted at the annual meeting, and the new board of directors will be seated at same meeting. The initial term of the officers will be determined by election by the organizing committee.

SECTION 4. Terms and Tenure: No Director shall serve more than three consecutive two (2) year terms or the equivalent thereof. No partial term shall be counted in determining the period a Director may serve.

SECTION 5. Regular Meetings: A regular annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held without other notice than this by-law immediately after, and at the same place as, the annual meeting of members. The Board of Directors may provide, by resolution, the time and place, either within or without the State of Illinois, for the holding of additional regular meetings of the Board without other notice than such resolution.

SECTION 6. Special Meetings: Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the President or any two Directors. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board may fix any place, either within or without the State of Illinois, for the holding of additional regular meetings of the Board without other notice than such resolution.

SECTION 7. Notice: Notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given at least five (5) days previously thereto by written notice delivered personally, by telephone or sent by mail to each Director at his address as shown by the records of the Corporation. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail in a sealed envelope so addressed with postage thereon prepaid. Any Director may waive notice of any meeting. The attendance of a Director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except where a Director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular or special meeting of the Board need to be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting.

SECTION 8. Quorum: A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board; provided, that if less than a majority of the Directors are present at said meeting, a majority of the Directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

SECTION 9. Manner of Acting: The act of a majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors, except where otherwise provided by law or by these By-laws.

SECTION 10. Vacancies: Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors shall be filled by the Board of Directors. A Director appointed to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the predecessor in office.

SECTION 11. Compensation: Directors, as such, shall not receive any stated salaries for their services, but by resolution of the Board of Directors, a fixed sum and expenses, if any, may be allowed for attendance at each regular or special meeting of the Board; provided, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any Director from serving the Corporation in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefore. Compensation for meeting attendance will only be provided if the association is in the black after payment of all other associated annual meeting costs.

SECTION 12. Attendance Requirement/Removal: Every member of the Board of Directors is required to attend at least 75% of the regularly-scheduled board meetings. When this attendance criteria is not met, the board member may be removed by the Board of Directors whenever, in its judgment, the best interests of the Corporation would be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the person so removed.

ARTICLE VI

Officers and Staff:

SECTION 1. Officers: The officers of the Corporation shall be a President, Vice Presidents.

SECTION 2. Election, Term of Office and Tenure: The officers of the Corporation shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the regular annual meeting of the Board. Vacancies may be filled or new offices created and filled at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Each officer shall hold office for one year and until a successor shall have been duly elected and shall have qualified. No officer shall be eligible to succeed himself/herself upon completion of a second consecutive one-year term in the same office. No partial term shall be counted in determining the consecutive periods an officer may serve. After being out of office for one year, a Director will be eligible to be re-elected to an office for another two consecutive one-year terms.

SECTION 3. Vacancies: A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

SECTION 4. President: The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Corporation and shall, in general, supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Corporation. The President shall preside at all meetings of the members and the Board of Directors. The President may sign, with the Secretary or any other proper officer of the Corporation authorized by the Board of Directors, any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts, or other instruments which the Board of Directors have authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these By-laws or by statute to some officer or agent of the Corporation; and in general, shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

SECTION 5. Vice President: In the absence of the President, or in the event of the inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President.

SECTION 6. Treasurer: If required by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer shall give a bond for the faithful discharge of the duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Board of Directors shall determine. The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the Corporation; receive and give receipts for monies due and payable to the Corporation from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such monies in the name of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII of these By-laws; and in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer, and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer may be an affiliate or industry member.

SECTION 7 Secretary: The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors in one or more books provided for that purpose; see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these By-laws, or as required by law; be custodian of the Corporation's records and of the seal of the Corporation and see that the seal of the Corporation is affixed to all documents, the execution of which on behalf of the Corporation under its seal is duly authorized in accordance with the provisions of these By-laws; keep a register of the post office address

of each member, which shall be furnished to the Secretary by such member; and in general, perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors. The treasurer may be an affiliate or industry member.

SECTION 8. Program Assistant: If required by the Board of Directors, the Program Assistants shall perform such duties as shall be assigned to them by the Treasurer or the Secretary or by the President or the Board of Directors including facilitation of the planning and scheduling of the annual conference. Program assistants can be association affiliates. Likely duties include facilitation of meeting scheduling, maintaining communication between the Board of Directors and relevant researchers, educators and technical service providers, and program organization.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings of Members:

SECTION 1. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of this Corporation shall be held at a date and place to be selected by the Board of Directors, for the purpose of seating Directors, and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting.

SECTION 2. Special Meetings: Special meetings of members may be called by the President or by a majority of the entire Board of Directors, or shall be called by the President upon written request signed by at least one-tenth of the Voting Members, at a location to be selected by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 3. Notice of Meetings: Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of any meeting of members shall be delivered, either personally, by mail or electronic mail, to all members not less than five (5) nor more than forty (40) days before the date of such meeting, by or at the direction of the President, or the Secretary, or the officers or persons calling the meeting. In case of a special meeting or when required by statute or by these By-laws, the purposes for which the meeting is called shall be stated in the notice. If mailed, the notice of a meeting shall be deemed delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the member's address as it appears on the records of the Corporation, with postage thereon prepaid.

SECTION 4. Informal Action by Members: Any action required to be taken at a meeting of the members of the Corporation, or any other action which may be taken at a meeting of members, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all of the members entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof.

SECTION 5. Quorum: The Voting Members representing one-tenth of the votes which may be cast at any meeting shall constitute a quorum at such meeting. If a quorum is not present at any meeting of members, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting without further notice and ask the Secretary to reschedule or move the agenda items forward.

SECTION 6. Proxies: At any meeting of members, a member entitled to vote may vote either in person.

ARTICLE VIII

Finance:

SECTION 1. Contracts: The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the Corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these By-laws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

SECTION 2. Checks, Drafts, Etc.: All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Corporation, shall be signed by such officer or officers, agent or agents of the Corporation and in such manner as shall from time to time be

determined by resolution of the Board of Directors. In the absence of such determination by the Board of Directors, such instruments shall be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President or a Vice President of the Corporation.

SECTION 3. Deposits: All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Directors may select.

SECTION 4. Books and Records: The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its members, Board of Directors, and committees having any of the authority of the Board of Directors, and shall keep at the registered or principal office a record giving the names and addresses of the members entitled to vote. All books and records of the Corporation may be inspected by any member, or their agent or attorney, for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

SECTION 5. Distribution of Assets: No distribution of the property of this Corporation shall be made until all debts are fully paid and then only upon the final dissolution of this Corporation. Such distribution shall only be made to one or more domestic corporations, societies or organizations engaged in activities substantially similar to those of this corporation pursuant to a plan of distribution adopted as provided in the Illinois "General Not For Profit Corporation Act." Such domestic corporations, societies or organizations engaged in activities substantially similar to those of this Corporation shall be qualified for exemption under Section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. No distribution shall be made without the consent of two-thirds of the voting members of this Corporation. None of the foregoing shall operate to prevent this Corporation from receiving and distributing or disbursing any fund or funds.

ARTICLE IX

Sundry Provisions:

SECTION 1. Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the first (1st) day of January and end on the last day of December in each year.

SECTION 2. Work Groups: The President, with the advice and approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint all standing and special work groups. The President shall appoint all work groups required in connection with any meeting of members.

SECTION 3 Contributions: At the discretion of the Board of Directors this Corporation may receive voluntary contributions in support of its program of work and activities and for special purposes.

SECTION 4. Informal Action: Any action required by the "General Not For Profit Corporation Act" to be taken at a meeting of the members or Directors of this Corporation, or any other action which may be taken at a meeting of the members or Directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all of the members entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof, or all the Directors, as the case may be.

SECTION 7. Indemnification: The officers of the Illinois Organic Growers Association shall not be personally liable for debts, liabilities, or other obligations. This Corporation shall indemnify any and all of its Directors or officers or former Directors or officers or any person who may have served at its request or by its election as a Director or officer of another corporation against expenses actually and necessarily incurred by them in connection with the defense or settlement of any action, suit or proceeding in which they, or any of them, are made parties, or a party, by reason of being or having been Directors or a Director or officer of this Corporation, or of such other corporation, except in relation to matters as to which any such Director or officer or former Director or officer or person shall be adjudged in such action, suit or proceeding to be liable for willful misconduct in the performance of duty and to such matters as shall be settled by agreement predicated on the existence of such liability.

This Corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any and all of its Directors or officers or former Directors or officers, or any person who has served at its request or by its election as a Director or officer of another corporation against any liability, or settlement based on asserted liability, incurred by them by reason of being or having been Directors or a Director or officer of the corporation, or of such other corporation, whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify them against such liability or settlement under the provisions of this section.

ARTICLE X

SECTION 1. Amendments to By-laws: These By-laws may be altered, amended or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by three-fourths (3/4) of the entire Board or by a majority of the voting members in attendance at any special or annual meeting provided at least five (5) days written notice is given of the intention to alter, amend or repeal or to adopt new Bylaws at such meeting.

SECTION 2. Conflict of Interest: No Director or Officer of the Illinois Organic Growers Association shall have a direct or indirect interest in any contract relating to its operations, or in any contract for furnishing services or supplies to it, unless (a) the facts and nature of such interest shall have been fully disclosed or shown to the members of the Board of Directors present at the meeting which such contract is so authorized; and (b) such contract shall be authorized by a majority of directors present and voting at a meeting at which the presence of such director is not necessary to constitute a quorum and the vote of such director is not necessary for such authorization.

SECTION 3. Dissolution: In the event of dissolution, all assets in excess of liabilities remaining at such time shall be distributed to another organization formed and operated for purposes similar to those of the Illinois Organic Growers Association.

APPENDIX 3: Potential Partners

Angelic Organics Learning Center

Angelic Organics Learning Center helps urban and rural people build local food systems. We offer opportunities to grow healthy food and a better quality of life, connect with farmers and the land, and learn agricultural and leadership skills. The Learning Center, a nonprofit organization, reaches more than 4,000 people each year through its programs at partner farms and urban growing sites in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

1547 Rockton Rd, Caledonia, IL 61011. (815) 389-8455, learn@learnconnect.org

FamilyFarmed.org

FamilyFarmed.org is a website, food label, and EXPO that supports Midwestern organic farmers by connecting them with consumers and commercial buyers. FamilyFarmed.org creates sustainable economic development, builds community, and contributes to a healthy environment by encouraging people to buy food from local producers.

Sustain, 7115 W. North Ave, #504, Oak Park, IL 60302, 708-763-9920 x109

Illinois Stewardship Alliance (ISA)

ISA is a citizen's organization that promotes a safe and nutritious food system, family farming, and healthy communities by advocating diverse, humane, and socially just and ecologically sustainable production and marketing practices.

Lindsay Record, Executive Director, ISA, PO Box 648, Rochester, IL 62563, (217) 498-9707, isa@ilstewards.org

The Land Connection

The Land Connection (TLC) preserves farmland, trains farmers, and supports sustainable farming through land conservation actions, education programs, and farmer-farmland matching, to help ensure every community in Illinois has access to local and organic food.

Terra Brockman, Founder and Director of Communications and Farmer Training

The Land Connection, 1227 Dodge Ave., Suite 200, Evanston, IL 60202, (847) 570-0701, info@thelandconnection.org

Stewards of the Land, LLC

The Stewards of the Land, LLC is a group of local families (all located within a 50 mile radius from Fairbury, Illinois) helping to change the world by producing fresh foods for kitchens across Illinois. The mission is to create, maintain, and support the family farm, to help them become and remain sustainable and profitable, and to provide the same opportunity for future generations.

Western Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Society

The Western Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Society (WISAS) is a regional, farmer-based not-for-profit organization incorporating the counties of Adams, Pike, Scott, Morgan, Cass, Hancock, Brown, Calhoun and Schuyler. It was established in 1992 in Western Illinois to encourage farmer practices that strike a balance between short-term profitability and long term environmental quality and rural community vitality.

Western Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Society, 110 E. Fayette, Pittsfield, IL 62363, 217-285-411

Clarkson Grain Company

Clarkson Grain supplies grains, oilseeds, and related ingredients for foods and feeds. We select varieties that optimize clients' process yield as well as flavor, nutrition, security, and access to markets including natural, organic, and kosher. We produce crops by contracting with approved farmers on dryland and irrigated fields over a broad geographic area. Exclusive genetics, preparation services, and detailed supply chain management offer clients unusual process and product advantages.

*PO Box 80, 320 E. South St, Cerro Gordo, IL 61818-0080, (800) 252-1638,
info@clarksongrain.com*

Goodness Greenness

Goodness Greenness is the Midwest's leading source for fresh, organic produce and the largest privately held organic distributor in the country. The company directly supplies over 300 stores that include the region's largest supermarkets and independent retailers. Goodness Greenness has developed a private label brand of regional organic food, including an all-new Fresh Cut product line, which is being distributed throughout the Midwest.

5959 South Lowe. Chicago, IL 60621, (773) 224-4411, sales@goodnessgreenness.com

Illinois Department of Agriculture

1-800-273-4763 (voice and TDD), PO Box 19281. State Fairgrounds, Springfield, IL 62794-9281

Illinois Chapter of Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA)

Chapter of the Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA), an international organic certifying agency.

*Josephine Dobson, N5364 Hemlock Lane. Kewaunee, WI 54216, Phone: 920-388-4369,
joeyg@hbci.com*

Indiana Certified Organic (ICO)

Certifying in Indiana and surrounding states.

*Cissy Bowman, Organizational Director, 8364 S SR 39. Clayton, IN 46118, (317) 539-4317,
icollc@earthlink.net*

Midwest Organic Farmers Cooperative

The purpose of MOFC is to serve our members through promoting organic systems in agriculture, education, public policy, and the favorable marketing of organic products. The cooperative is an affiliate member of the Organic Farmers Agency for Relationship Marketing (OFARM).

*Bonnie Wagner, Administrative Director, 100A S. Lafayette St., Newton, IL 62448,
(618) 783-4601, mofc20@msn.com*

USDA Farm Service Agency

Stabilizing farm income, helping farmers conserve land and water resources, providing credit to new or disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and helping farm operations recover from the effects of disaster are the missions of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS works to protect and enhance natural resources by working one-on-one with private landowners and community leaders to put conservation on the land. NRCS delivers technical assistance based on sound science, suited to a customer's specific needs. Cost share and financial incentives are available in some cases.

Western Illinois University's Alternative Crops Research Program

The Alternative Crops Research Program at Western Illinois University was established in August 2000 to investigate new crops for the Midwest and help revitalize the local economies. The goal of the program is to provide alternative crops that can fit into the corn and soybean rotations already in place to assist with pest problems and to increase crop diversity.

Appendix 4. Growers

Marty Gray	Marty.gray@gmail.com
Floyd Johnson	fjohnson@consolidated.net
Michael and Deborah Boehle	mboehle@jic.edu deborahwrites@gmail.com
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Allen Williams-	williams@njoycom.net
Alan DeYoung-	adeyoung@vandrunen.com
Dave Cleverdon	kinnikinnickfarm@yahoo.com
Leslie Cooperband and Wes Jarrell	prairiefruitfarm@gmail.com
Lisa Haynes	tomahnousfarm@yahoo.com
Paul Pierski	PPierski@aol.com
Lynn Clarkson	Lynn.Clarkson@clarksongrain.com
Aaron Butler)	donaar204@juno.com
Miles Harston	myles@aquaranch.com
Harold Wilken	janiesfarm@yahoo.com