

Tilth Conference *and* Farm & Food Symposium

November 12-15, 2025 | Spokane Valley, WA



Mural by Michael Che Romero

tilthalliance.org | spokanecd.org





ROOTED IN COMMUNITY. GROWING TOGETHER.

At BECU, we believe that strong communities start with people who care. That's why we're proud to support the 2025 Tilth Conference and the Farm & Food Symposium. Together, we're helping build a stronger, more sustainable future for Washington's food systems.



Welcome, Conference Attendees!

Nine months ago, Tilth Alliance and the Spokane Conservation District started a conversation: What if we joined forces? Combined two important conferences into one? What could we build together?

It has been an extraordinary journey. We have learned from each other as we crafted a shared vision, developed trust, and took on shared responsibility. We were surprised by how complex organizing a unified event turned out to be. But working together across organizations and across Washington has delivered many positive outcomes.

This conference shows what we can achieve when we come together as a community and choose collaboration over competition. Our hope is that the constructive experience our two organizations have had will inspire the same spirit in all of you - showing what we can accomplish when we align around a common vision.

We all want to build a resilient, abundant food system with ecological integrity that meets our communities' needs and creates a viable agricultural economy where farmers thrive and food is available to everyone. This conference bridges Eastern and Western Washington, bringing together farmers of all scales, researchers, educators, food system advocates, government agencies and nonprofits to learn, network and collaborate toward that vision. In these challenging times, coming together to forge a path forward feels essential.

I'm excited to see what we will create together and look forward to working with you all.

See you in Spokane!

Melissa Spear,
Executive Director, Tilth Alliance



Melissa Spear

Welcome to Spokane and to the 2025 Farm & Food + Tilth Conference—a landmark partnership between the Spokane Conservation District and Tilth Alliance. Now in its 14th year, the Farm & Food Symposium joins forces with Tilth Alliance's long-standing statewide gathering to unite Washington's farmers, educators, researchers, and advocates around a shared vision for regenerative agriculture.



Vicki Carter

This joint event bridges Eastern and Western Washington, creating space for collaboration at a time when farmers face unprecedented challenges. Together, we'll explore the vital connections between soil health, human health, and economic resilience. Sessions will highlight biological and regenerative farming, "food-is-medicine" initiatives, on-farm innovation, and the policies and markets shaping Washington agriculture.

Throughout the week, keynotes, panels, and networking sessions will inspire action and foster community. Whether you're a producer, policymaker, or partner organization, this conference offers the opportunity to share ideas, build relationships, and cultivate solutions that strengthen both land and livelihood.

To the farmers, ranchers, educators, and advocates in this room, thank you. What you do every day is more than a job; it is a calling rooted in service to the land and to future generations. Your resilience and dedication continue to shape the future of food and farming in Washington State.

Thank you for your dedication to stewardship and sustainability. Together, rooted in living soil and shared purpose, we are cultivating a thriving future for Washington agriculture.

Farm regards,

Vicki Carter
Director, Spokane Conservation District

Learn more about Tilth Alliance:
tilthalliance.org

Learn more about Spokane Conservation District:
spokaneecd.org

Conference Schedule

Wednesday

7:30-8 am	Registration & Breakfast Great Room
8 am-6 pm	Trade Show Great Room
8-8:15 am	Welcome! Great Room
8:15-9:25 am	Redefining Soil Fertility Great Room
9:30-10:45 am	Biological Farming, Innovation and Resourcefulness Great Room
11 am-noon	Advancing Soil Health in WA: WaSHI & LTARE Research Great Room
noon-1 pm	Lunch Great Room
1-2:15 pm	The FreshRx Model: Healing People and the Land Great Room
2:30-4 pm	Switching to Biological Farming: 2025 Update Great Room
4-6 pm	Happy Hour Great Room

Thursday

7:30-8 am	Registration & Breakfast Great Room
8 am-7 pm	Trade Show Great Room
8-9:30 am	A Story of Soil Regeneration, Profits, and Life Great Room
9:45-11 am	My Approach to Biological Farming: Successful Case Studies Great Room
11 am-noon	Nutrient Density, Regeneration, and Rural Revitalization Great Room
noon-1 pm	Lunch Great Room
1-2:15 pm	Inland Northwest Farmer Case Studies Great Room

2:30-4 pm	Fireside Chat: Soil to Human Health Great Room
2:30-3:45 pm	Session A Meeting Rooms
4-5:15 pm	Session B Meeting Rooms
5:15-7:15 pm	Happy Hour Great Room
7:15-9 pm	"Women's Work" Documentary Screening Auditorium
7:15-10 pm	Stories & Songs From the Farm Great Room

Friday

7:30-8:30 am	Registration & Breakfast Great Room
8 am-2 pm	Trade Show Great Room
8 am-3 pm	SCD Advanced Program Off-site: SCD Offices
8:45-9:45 am	Keynote: Valerie Segrest Great Room
9 am-5 pm	State Organic Program Office Hours Executive Conference Room
10-11:15 am	Session C Meeting Rooms
noon-1:15 pm	Lunch Great Room
noon-1:15 pm	Keynote: James Cassidy Great Room
1:15-2:15 pm	Facilitated Networking, Town Hall Meeting Rooms
2:30-3:45 pm	Session D Meeting Rooms
4-5:15 pm	Session E Meeting Rooms
5:30-7:30 pm	Growing Markets for Local Food Great Room

Saturday

9 am-1 pm	Farm Walk: Scale House Market, Vets on the Farm, Casa Cano Farms Off-site
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Logistics

Grant Acknowledgements

This program is supported through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP). TOPP is a program of the USDA Organic Transition Initiative and is administered by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP).

Interpretation

We are so grateful to have live Spanish interpretation provided by Kate Smith of WSU Food Systems with Juliana Ruiz of Viva Farms and Lizette Flores of Pure Nelida Farm made possible with funding from USDA Regional Food Business Center and Transition to Organic Partnership Program. Four educational sessions and keynotes will have live interpretation. Sessions with this feature are indicated by this symbol: **ES**.

Interpretation

Estamos muy agradecidos por contar con la interpretación simultánea al español proporcionada por Kate Smith, de WSU Food Systems, junto con Juliana Ruiz, de Viva Farms, y Lizette Flores, de Pure Nelida Farm, gracias a la financiación del Centro Regional de Negocios Alimentarios del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA) y el Programa de Transición a la Agricultura Orgánica. Cuatro sesiones educativas contarán con interpretación simultánea. Las sesiones con esta característica se indican con este símbolo: **ES**.

Pumping/Nursing Station

Attendees are welcome to use the ladies lounge just outside of the Great Room, which includes an area with soft seating, etc.

Coffee & Water

A self-serve coffee station will be available in the Great Room from 7:30 am-2 pm on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. From 2-5 pm, coffee and cookies will be served in Room 216. Water stations will be located throughout the event space for your convenience.

Connect to Wi-Fi

- **Network:** Discover the Valley
- *No password needed.*

Trade Show

The trade show will be open during meals, breaks and networking events during these hours. It will close during conference programming.

Wednesday	8 am-6 pm Great Room
Thursday	8 am-7 pm Great Room
Friday	8 am-2 pm Great Room

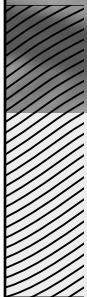
This year's Trade Show experience is designed to bring our sponsors and attendees closer than ever before! Exhibitors will be joining you in sessions and discussions for learning, sharing, and sparking new ideas and partnerships.

Booths will be open during meals, breaks, and networking times, so be sure to stop by, say hello, and discover innovative programs and products that help strengthen our agricultural and conservation communities. These connections are what make this conference thrive – so take a moment, start a conversation, and see where it leads!

Trade Show Vendors

- AgriBio Systems
- AgWest Farm Credit
- American Farmland Trust
- BECU
- Charlie's Produce
- Eat Local First
- Good Roots
- GroPro
- Hiwassee Products
- Johnny's Selected Seeds
- NW TOPPS
- Osborne Seeds
- Spokane Conservation District
- Spokane Teachers Credit Union
- Tainio Biologicals
- USDA Northwest Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center
- WSDA Organic Program
- WSDA Regional Markets Program
- WSU Food Systems Program
- Zero Emission NW


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Thank you, conference underwriters!

“Transition to Organic” track underwriting made possible with support from NW TOPP and USDA.



NORTHWEST
TRANSITION TO ORGANIC
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program
Transition to Organic Partnership Program



Educational underwriting made possible with support from the Center for Sustaining Agriculture & Natural Resources and Western SARE.



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Center for Sustaining Agriculture
and Natural Resources



Growing Markets for Local Food underwriting provided by Rodale Institute, in partnership with the Organic Trade Association and USDA’s TOPP program, helps farmers find markets, resources, and community on the path to organic.



NATIONAL
TRANSITION TO ORGANIC
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



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Funding for this project was made possible by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service through grant 24RFPWA1085-00. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

Schedule At-a-Glance » Tilth Conference + Farm & Food Symposium 2025

Wednesday

Registration & Breakfast 7:30-8 am (Great Room)

Trade Show Open during meals, breaks and networking events, etc., 8 am-6 pm (Great Room)

Welcome! 8-8:15 am (Great Room)

Redefining Soil Fertility 8:15-9:25 am (Great Room)

Biological Farming, Innovation and Resourcefulness 9:30-10:45 am (Great Room)

Advancing Soil Health in Washington: WaSHI & LTARE Research 11 am-noon (Great Room)

Lunch noon-1 pm (Great Room)

The FreshRx Model — Healing People and the Land 1-2:15 pm (Great Room)

Switching to Biological Farming: 2025 Update 2:30-4 pm (Great Room)

Happy Hour 4-6 pm (Great Room)

Thursday

Registration & Breakfast 7:30-8 am (Great Room)

Trade Show Open during meals, breaks and networking events, etc., 8 am-7 pm (Great Room)

A Story of Soil Regeneration, Profits and Life 8-9:30 am (Great Room)

My Approach to Biological Farming: Successful Case Studies 9:45-11 am (Great Room)

Nutrient Density, Regeneration, and Rural Revitalization 11 am-noon (Great Room)

Lunch noon-1 pm (Great Room)

Inland Northwest Farmer Case Studies 1-2:15 pm (Great Room)

Fireside Chat: Soil to Human Health 2:30-4 pm (Great Room)

Session	Time	Room 108	Room 205	Room 110	Room 212
Session A	2:30-3:45 pm	FARM TO SCHOOL Introduction to School Markets and the Farm to School Supply Chain	TRANSITION TO ORGANIC Partnering for Organic Success: Certification 101 <i>Session sponsored by Organically Grown Company</i>	FARM BUSINESS & MARKETING How to Fund Your Farm ^{ES}	PRACTICAL SKILLS & PRODUCTION PRACTICES Designing Low Risk Wash Packs for Farms With Multiple Farmers and Languages
Session B	4-5:15 pm	FARM TO SCHOOL Pathways for Selling to Schools ^{ES}	TRANSITION TO ORGANIC Managing the Transition to Organic & Regenerative Production	FARM BUSINESS & MARKETING Meat Production and Processing: Lessons Learned From Doing Both	PRACTICAL SKILLS & PRODUCTION PRACTICES QPR Question, Persuade and Refer: A Suicide Prevention Training

Happy Hour 5:15-7:15 pm (Great Room)

“Women’s Work:” Documentary Screening 7:15-9 pm (Auditorium)

Stories & Songs From the Farm 7:15-10 pm (Great Room)

Friday

Registration & Breakfast 7:30-8:30 am (Great Room)

Trade Show Open during meals, breaks and networking events, etc., 8 am-2 pm (Great Room)

Spokane Conservation District: Advanced Programming “Soil Health Day” 8 am-3 pm (Off-site)

Keynote: Valerie Segrest “Finding Strength Through Growing Together” 8:45-9:45 am (Great Room)

Farmer Resource Room: WSDA Organic Program Office Hours 9 am-5 pm (Executive Conference Room)

Session	Time	Room 108	Room 205	Room 110	Room 212
Session C	10-11:15 am	FARM TO SCHOOL Working Session: How to Tell Your Story to Create a Thriving Business	TRANSITION TO ORGANIC Where Do Organics Stand in the Federal Playing Field? Update on Federal Organic Agricultural Policy	FARM BUSINESS & MARKETING Building Customer Relationships: The How, Who and Why ^{ES}	PRACTICAL SKILLS & PRODUCTION PRACTICES Building Climate Resilience Together: An Inclusive Blueprint for Washington's Farming Future

Lunch noon-1:15 pm (Great Room)

Keynote: James Cassidy “Soil! What It Is & How It Works” noon-1:15 pm (Great Room)

Town Hall with Representative Kristine Reeves, Senator Shelly Short, and Senator Marcus Riccelli 1:15-2:15 pm (Room 213)

Session	Time	Room 108	Room 205	Room 110	Room 212
Networking Sessions	1:15-2:15 pm	Producer School Food Buyer Networking	Organic Networking	Marketing Networking	<i>Practical Skills Networking in Room 213</i>
Session D	2:30-3:45 pm	FARM TO SCHOOL Successful Pathways Panel	TRANSITION TO ORGANIC Policy Roundtable	FARM BUSINESS & MARKETING A Practical Introduction to Transitioning Farm Businesses and Farmland ^{ES}	PRACTICAL SKILLS & PRODUCTION PRACTICES Tools & Techniques for Assessing Soil Health
Session E	4-5:15 pm	FARM TO SCHOOL Farm to School Office Hours	TRANSITION TO ORGANIC Simple Steps for Better Cover Crop Success ^{ES}	FARM BUSINESS & MARKETING Finding Your Market	PRACTICAL SKILLS & PRODUCTION PRACTICES How Do You Brew? Exploring Compost Teas and Extracts in the PNW

Advocacy for Agriculture in Washington: How to Navigate, Instigate, and Speak Out in the Legislature 4-5:15 pm (Room 213)

Growing Markets for Local Food 5:30-7:30 pm (Great Room)

Saturday

Farm Walk 9 am-1 pm (Off-site: Scale House Market, Vets on the Farm, Casa Cano Farms)

^{ES} Este símbolo indica sesiones que tendrán interpretación en español en vivo disponible.

Wednesday

Farm & Food Symposium: “From Living Soil to Food as Medicine”

7:30-8 am	Registration & Breakfast
8-8:15 am	Welcome <i>Vicki Carter, Director, Spokane Conservation District</i>
8:15-9:25 am	Redefining Soil Fertility <i>Speaker: Vivian Kaloxilos</i> Soil fertility is more than nutrients—it’s a living, breathing ecosystem. Vivian introduces the underground workforce of microbes and fungi that regulate fertility, cycle nutrients, and build natural plant defenses. Learn how to recognize signs of biological activity and what steps farmers can take to restore fertility by working with, not against, biology.
9:30-10:45 am	Biological Farming, Innovation and Resourcefulness <i>Speaker: Todd Harrington</i> Todd Harrington draws on over 30 years of experience working with soil biology to guide growers in creative, biology-driven systems. In this session, he will discuss how he uses foliar sprays, custom compost extracts, and innovative soil/plant testing (e.g. biological assays, soil food web extractions) to tailor microbial communities and feed plants naturally.
11 am-noon	Advancing Soil Health in Washington: WaSHI & LTARE Research <i>Chad Kruger, Director, CSANR, Washington State University</i> This session will provide symposium attendees with a comprehensive overview of the Washington Soil Health Initiative (WaSHI) — its structure, mission, and key state-level committee activities — and then dive into the six-site LTARE (Long-Term Agroecological Research & Extension) network that supports the initiative’s long-term soil-health objectives across Washington’s diverse cropping systems.
noon-1 pm	Lunch
1-2:15 pm	The FreshRx Model — Healing People and the Land <i>Speaker: Erin Martin (Gerontologist; Founder, FreshRx Oklahoma)</i> This session introduces the innovative FreshRx Oklahoma “Food is Medicine” model that bridges healthcare and agriculture to reverse chronic disease and rebuild local economies. Erin shares how a small produce prescription program evolved into a statewide movement—part of a growing national movement—heals communities and restores dignity to farmers. She reveals how investing in regenerative food systems is one of the most powerful health interventions of our time.
2:30-4 pm	Switching to Biological Farming: 2025 Update <i>Panel of Producers & Agronomists: Brian Bohhoff, Devon Zenner, Brent Uhlhorn, Tom Conklin</i> Making the shift to biological practices can feel overwhelming. This session brings together producers navigating the transition—discussing foliar sprays, custom mixes, input reductions, and how they answered the critical question: “Where do you start?” Expect candid stories and practical lessons.
4-6 pm	Networking Happy Hour



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Thursday

Farm & Food Symposium: “From Soil Biology to Human Health”

7:30-8 am	Registration & Breakfast
8-9:30 am	<p>A Story of Soil Regeneration, Profits, and Life <i>Speaker: Vivian Kaloxilos</i> Vivian Kaloxilos will walk participants through a real-world example of regenerative transformation. She will share how farms shifted from conventional practices to biology-first systems—detailing soil metrics, crop performance, input reductions, and economic outcomes. Beyond agronomics, Vivian will tell the story of life returning to fields and how this regenerative trajectory aligns with farm profitability and resilience.</p>
9:45-11 am	<p>My Approach to Biological Farming: Successful Case Studies <i>Speaker: Todd Harrington with Adam York (AgriBio Systems)</i> Todd Harrington presents his model of on-farm fertility: the idea that farms can produce their own biology and fertility by harnessing local inputs, composts, and biological systems. Through case studies from his consulting work, Todd shows how farms gained control of fertility by integrating compost extracts, microbial inoculants, and iterative testing. Adam York will share how they collaborated to design a successful biological transition plan for his farm. Their work not only reshaped Adam’s operation but also led to the creation of AgriBio Systems, helping transition thousands of acres to biology-first systems. This session blends Todd’s global consulting experience with Adam’s on-the-ground transformation, offering attendees practical insights into the path from soil health to farm resilience and business innovation.</p>
11 am-noon	<p>Nutrient Density, Regeneration, and Rural Revitalization <i>Speaker: Erin Martin (Gerontologist; Founder, FreshRx Oklahoma)</i> Building on the FreshRx foundation, Erin connects the regenerative agriculture, conservation, and Food is Medicine movements through the lens of nutrient density and human health. Erin explores how the convergence of these movements—and a revolution within healthcare itself—represents a golden hour of opportunity to restore the vitality of rural America and build markets that value farmers for their ecological and health impacts.</p>
noon-1 pm	Lunch
1-2:15 pm	<p>Inland Northwest Farmer Case Studies <i>Moderated by Vivian Kaloxilos; Producers: Clint Zenner, Josh Riddle, Allen Druffel & David Dobbins</i> Regional producers present real-world examples of soil health in action: reduced inputs, improved water retention, and yield stability—with simple, replicable data..</p>
2:30-4 pm	<p>Fireside Chat: Soil to Human Health <i>Featuring: Vivian Kaloxilos, Erin Martin, and Todd Harrington</i> Our closing conversation brings together three complementary lenses—soil biology (Vivian), Food-is-Medicine and community health (Erin), and biology-first farm design (Todd). In a lively, unscripted dialogue they’ll connect microbial function to nutrient density, patient outcomes, and practical pathways for producers to adopt biological systems at scale.</p>
4 pm	Closing Reflections & Next Steps

Thursday

SESSION A – 2:30-3:45 PM

FARM TO SCHOOL

Introduction to School Markets and the Farm to School Supply Chain

Carter Grant, Seattle Public Schools; Annette Slonim, Washington State Dept. of Agriculture

Room 108

This session is for producers with little to no experience selling to schools, or for those interested in a refresher on school markets. In this session, participants will learn the basics of child nutrition programs, the types of local foods that can be a good fit for schools, how school districts source and purchase local foods for their meal programs, and how to connect with your local school district. Participants will also receive resources and tools, including Bringing the Farm to School Producer Workbook, that will help them move further ahead with selling to schools.

TRANSITION TO ORGANIC

Partnering for Organic Success: Certification 101

Claire Davis, Oregon Tilth

Room 205

The Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) for the Northwest Region presents on Certification 101, where you can learn about the organic certification process from start to finish. Understand what it takes to be eligible for organic certification, general organic rules and regulations, how to find a certifier, and what an on-site organic inspection looks like. This session is sponsored by Organically Grown Company.

FARM BUSINESS & MARKETING

How to Fund Your Farm / Cómo financiar su granja ^{ES}

Micha Ide, WSDA Regional Markets Program; Ryan Kile, AgWest

Room 110

Grants, loans, programs...what's the difference? And which ones matter for your farm or project? This session will provide an overview of government funding options available in WA and discuss how each type of funding can be used in your operation. You will gain some insight into

the approval process and we will address common barriers for small and beginning operations when initiating an application, and how to overcome them.

PRACTICAL SKILLS & PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Designing Low Risk Wash Packs for Farms with Multiple Farmers and Languages

Room 212

Patrice Barrentine, King County Agriculture Program

How do we minimize risk with 50 unique mostly immigrant farmers using a single on-farm wash pack? We did a lot of research, got some help from our friends at Viva Farms, selected specific equipment that is safe and durable to prevent microbial contamination, and tested and re-tested the materials using Lean Process Improvement. Come see how we minimized risk through specific training for farmers, farm organizations, and farm managers as well as through our farm food safety plan, SOPs and streamlined checklists. The Wash Pack runs off well water that is fueled by a solar powered pump.

SESSION B – 4:00-5:15 PM

FARM TO SCHOOL

Pathways for Selling to Schools / Vías para vender a las escuelas ^{ES}

Tammy Howard, National Center for Appropriate Technology

Room 108

In this session you will learn about the various types of market channels you can utilize to sell your products to schools. We will discuss the common benefits, potential drawbacks of the common marketing channels and important considerations for your farm, so that you can determine the best options for your business. We will dig into details about making direct-to-school sales work for you, such as meeting school nutrition department standards, understanding common vendor requirements, and approaching and establishing effective working relationships with school food buyers. YOU will finish this session by identifying gaps and outlining next steps for establishing effective working relationships with school buyers.

Thursday

TRANSITION TO ORGANIC

Managing the Transition to Organic & Regenerative Production

Brad Bailie, Lenwood Farms; Aaron Flansburg, Flansburg Farm; Josh Riddle, Farm It, LLC

Room 205

Farmers always face a wide array of challenges, but the challenges can be compounded in the transition from conventional to organic and regenerative production. In this workshop, farmers share their experiences with managing weeds, insects, diseases, and soil fertility as they transition from conventional to organic farming practices in Eastern Washington.

FARM BUSINESS & MARKETING

Meat Production and Processing: Lessons Learned from Doing Both

Cody & Jen Hoseth, Lone Crow Ranch; Kira & Brent Olsen, Olsen Farms, Smoky Ridge Meats

Room 110

Are you a farmer or rancher who struggles to find adequate meat processing? Are you thinking of trying to do it all? Hear the ins and outs from someone who has been there too. Or if you know you're not interested in opening a meat shop – come learn how best to work with your butcher from someone who knows both sides. Join Cody and Jen Hoseth from Lone Crow Ranch as they share their journey from cattle production into meat processing and retail store management. Learn what they wish they had known going in and how.

PRACTICAL SKILLS & PRODUCTION PRACTICES

QPR Question, Persuade and Refer: A Suicide Prevention Training

Debbie Fredricks, WSU Extension Skagit County

Room 212

In these times of uncertainty, it is even more important to be aware of those around us and how their mental wellness is affected. Through learning about the signs that someone may be considering taking their own life it may be possible to prevent suicide. QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer — the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as

people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. Ask a question. Save a life.

Visit the Trade Show!

Located in the Great Room
Check the Trade Show hours on page 5.

Happy Hour

5:15-7:15 p.m. | Great Room

Join us for a fun mix and mingle event! Enjoy this evening with plenty of hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. We're excited to offer this celebration to reconnect with friends and colleagues and welcome our newest community members. Come by and gather 'round!

“Women’s Work:” Documentary Screening

7:15-9 pm | Auditorium

Elizabeth Bragg, Long Hearing Farm; Micha Ide, WSDA Regional Markets Program; Nelida Martinez, Pure Nelida Farm; Rynne Pilgeram, Independent Scholar

Through a rich tapestry of narratives, “Women’s Work: The Untold Story of America’s Female Farmers” celebrates the achievements of both historical and contemporary female farmers. The documentary offers a uniquely matrilineal perspective on America’s farming history. It features insightful interviews and highlights women’s diverse backgrounds and agricultural practices across the nation. The film will be followed by a panel discussion, moderated by Micha Ide, featuring women farmers from our region.

Stories & Songs From the Farm

7:15-10 pm | Great Room

Come together as farmers and friends to share stories, songs, poetry or whatever other medium makes sense to bring your farm experience and its impact to life. Come ready to take the stage for 5 minutes.



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Supporting Farm & Food Entrepreneurs in the Northwest and Rocky Mountain Region



Since its creation over 2 years ago, the Northwest and Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center has been providing funding and technical assistance to farm and food businesses throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado.

We currently have 131 grantees who are investing in their businesses through equipment, marketing materials and consulting, new product development and more. Although the USDA terminated our Center's funding, we continue to serve as a resource hub and connecting point for our region's local and regional food system businesses.

Explore resources and connect with us below or scan the QR code:

nwrockymountainregionalfoodbusiness.com



Friday

SCD Advanced Programming: “Soil Health Day”

8-8:30 am

Registration & Welcome

Participants arrive, network, and enjoy coffee and light breakfast. The Spokane Conservation District team will provide an overview of the day’s objectives and how this advanced training builds on the foundation of the two-day Farm & Food Symposium. Attendees will be encouraged to consider where they are on their biological transition journey and how the tools discussed today—transition design, composting, and microscopy—can accelerate progress.

8:30-9:30 am

Transition Design & Planning for Biological Farming

Speakers: Todd Harrington & Vivian Kaloxilos

Todd and Vivian will jointly guide participants through the core principles of transition design—what to consider when converting a conventional farm into a thriving biological system. They’ll discuss evaluating soil readiness, balancing carbon and nutrient flows, sequencing regenerative practices, and aligning ecological goals with financial realities. This session provides producers with a framework to build soil biology while maintaining profitability and resilience.

9:30-9:45 am

Q&A Session: Transition Design

Speakers: Todd Harrington & Vivian Kaloxilos

An open-floor discussion with Todd and Vivian for participants to clarify concepts, share their own transition challenges, and receive practical feedback before the hands-on sessions begin.

10 am-noon

Compost Workshop: Building Biologically Complete Thermophilic & Vermicompost

Speakers: Todd Harrington & Vivian Kaloxilos

This workshop demonstrates how to build biologically complete compost capable of restoring soil life and fertility. Todd and Vivian will show how to select and balance feedstocks, manage temperature and moisture, and maintain aerobic conditions for maximum microbial diversity. Participants will learn to create thermophilic and vermicompost systems that generate fungal-rich, biologically stable material ideal for regenerative farming. The session will also highlight the importance of sanitation and cleanliness in all composting operations to ensure consistent, high-quality results.

noon-1 pm

Lunch & Visit With Trade Show Vendors

1-3 pm

Microscopy: Seeing the Living Soil

Speakers: Todd Harrington & Vivian Kaloxilos

In this interactive session, participants will see firsthand how microscopy reveals the biological life of soil and compost. Todd and Vivian will demonstrate how to prepare and examine samples, identify key organisms such as fungi, bacteria, protozoa, and nematodes, and interpret what these life forms indicate about soil balance and health. They’ll connect microscope findings to field management decisions—showing how biological observation can guide compost quality, fertility management, and regenerative outcomes.

3-4 pm

Open Q&A with Todd & Vivian

An open dialogue with both speakers to address attendee questions on biological farming, compost systems, transition strategies, and monitoring soil life. Drawing from decades of consulting experience, Todd and Vivian will share insights and practical steps that producers can apply immediately on their own farms.

Friday

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Valerie Segrest: “Finding Strength Through Growing Together”

8:45-9:45 am | Great Room

As we face a changing world, this keynote draws from the teachings of old-growth ecosystems to remind us that our renewal begins in relationship, through reciprocity, courage, and care. From organic farmers to biofarming innovators, from ancestral land stewards to emerging voices in food systems, we each bring something vital to the table. Together, we can bridge sectors and perspectives to meet the challenges of our time with creativity, courage, and care.

Drawing on the teachings of old growth ecosystems, I'll share stories of community, disruption, and renewal – how diversity builds resilience, how reciprocity restores balance, and how, after fire and loss, nourishment always finds its way back to the soil. These are lessons for our food systems, our communities, and ourselves.

When we collaborate with intention, honor our interdependence, and choose to build something better, we create a living, breathing food system of possibility. This is an invitation to take your place at The Old Growth Table—to share what you have, receive what you need, and help cultivate a future that feeds us all.

Farmer Resource Room: WSDA Organic Program Office Hours

9 am-5 pm | Executive Conference Room

Are you curious about transitioning to organic production? Have you wondered if organic certification would be a good fit for your farm and markets? Do you have questions about your existing certification and organic standards? Get your questions answered!

Visit the WSDA Organic Program Table in the Great Room to sign up for Organic Office hours throughout the conference or simply stop by the Executive Conference Room to speak with representatives from other resource providers. Inspectors and review staff will be ready with forms, factsheets, and expertise to help you navigate certification requirements and determine next steps for your farm.

SESSION C

FARM TO SCHOOL

Working Session: How to Tell Your Story to Create a Thriving Business

Rey Cooley, Washington Farm to School Network; Cheryl Thornton, Cloud Mountain Farm

Room 108

This interactive working session is designed to help local food producers and farmers confidently and effectively tell your unique story to school buyers and other customers. Participants will explore how to align their unique stories and values with institutional priorities. This can absolutely be helpful in other situations you find yourself engaging in sales! Whether you're experienced selling to schools or just beginning to think about it, this session will help you build a pitch that communicates not just what you sell, but how your products add value for institutional customers. Come ready to work, share, and create a pitch that connects your farm's story and values to the larger local food movement.

TRANSITION TO ORGANIC

Where Do Organics Stand in the Federal Playing Field? Update on Federal Organic Agricultural Policy

Steve Ela, National Organic Coalition

Room 205

Where do organics stand in the federal playing field? Government cuts to staff and program funding on top of changes to both policy and priorities are all having an impact on the delivery of government services and programs. How is the National Organic Program faring amidst all of this change? What impacts have we seen and what can we expect going forward? Steve Ela from the National Organic Coalition and a specialist on the National Organics Standards Board will share his knowledge and insights with us.

Visit the Trade Show!

Located in the Great Room
Check the Trade Show hours on page 5.

Friday

FARM BUSINESS & MARKETING

Building Customer Relationships: The How, Who and Why / Creación de relaciones con los clientes: cómo, quién y por qué ^{ES}

Jake Fowler, Northwest Agriculture Business Center

Room 110

Learn how to develop a customer focused marketing plan that will create loyal customers. Then take a deep dive into one key demographic – the gen-z customer – based on research combined with the personal knowledge from a group of Gen-Z consultants from Oregon State University.

PRACTICAL SKILLS & PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Building Climate Resilience Together: An Inclusive Blueprint for Washington's Farming Future

Dani Gelardi, Washington State Dept. of Agriculture; Erik Nicholson, Semillero de Ideas

Room 212

How can Washington agriculture become more resilient, productive, and profitable in the face of climate change? From drought and heatwaves to floods, wildfires, and shifting growing conditions, growers and farmworkers are already feeling the impacts of a changing climate. To transcend these challenges, new collaborations and ways of learning are critical. WSDA's Climate Resilience Plan for Washington Agriculture charts a path to protect the viability of farms, food systems, and rural communities, while including the voices of farmworkers, who often face the greatest risks.

By partnering with the non-profit Semillero de Ideas, the Resilience Plan includes data and stories from interviews with over 200 farmworkers from across the Yakima Valley and Columbia Basin. This landmark report is a first in its comprehensive engagement of such a broad group of essential stakeholders.

Dani will present a high-level overview of the Climate Resilience Plan, outlining anticipated changes, on-the-ground impacts, future opportunities, and strategies for building resilience. Erik will shine a spotlight on the particular impacts to farmworkers and their families, sharing best practices for more equitable engagement, and recommendations to better support workers through climate change. Participants will be invited into small group discussions to share their knowledge, perspectives,

and experiences with climate change adaptation and inclusive stakeholder engagement. Together, we'll consider how to collectively build a more resilient agricultural future.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

James Cassidy: “Soil! – What It Is & How It Works”

noon-1:15 pm | Great Room

It's ALL about SOIL! Most people only have a vague idea of what soil is and how it works. You will learn more than you ever thought possible from this lecture. What soil is, how soils form, the reason you are alive, what nutrients are, how soil stores water and nutrients – the fundamentals that ALL humans on the planet Earth should know!

NETWORKING SESSIONS

Producer School Food Buyer Networking

Tammy Howard, National Center for Appropriate Technology

Room 108

This session is for producers that want to get started with the important work of establishing relationships with school food buyers. Even if you are just curious about selling to schools, this session will provide an opportunity for you to practice your sales and values pitch to school buyers. This is also for producers that are serious about selling to schools and school food distributors. Note that the working session “How to Tell Your Story to Create a Thriving Business” closely aligns with this networking session. During this facilitated session, you will have one-on-one conversations with school food buyers. Come prepared with your business card, sales and values pitch, and a wholesale price list of your products.

Transition to Organic, Farm Business & Marketing, and Practical Skills & Production Practices Networking

Room 205, 110, 213

This is a great opportunity for one-on-one conversations with your peers on topics that are relevant to you! Facilitators will be standing by to assist, bring your questions and business cards.

Friday

Town Hall with Representative Kristine Reeves, Senator Shelly Short, and Senator Marcus Riccelli

Room 212

Share your thoughts, challenges and policy recommendations with Representative Reeves, the new Chair of the State House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, as well as Senator Short, ranking member of the State Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Senator Riccelli, State Senate Majority Floor Leader.

SESSION D

FARM TO SCHOOL

Successful Pathways Panel

Kendra Dean, NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101; Krysta Froberg, Happy Mountain Mushrooms; Leah Harp, Valley School District; Denice Kwate, Central Valley School District; Madyson Versteeg, Casa Cano Farms

Room 108

Participants will hear stories from two successful farm to school partnerships and learn about the benefits to both schools and farms. The first story features Central Valley School District' Harvest of the Month program and partnership with CasaCano Farms. The second story highlights the different ways Valley School District and Happy Mountain Mushrooms partner to introduce students to new foods and provide hands-on learning opportunities. This panel offers examples and tips for anyone interested in farm-to-school connections.

TRANSITION TO ORGANIC

Policy Roundtable

Melissa Spear, Tilth Alliance

Room 205

Come share your thoughts, ideas and experience in this facilitated discussion of what state policies, programs and resources are needed to ensure the viability of our local/ regional food system and the farmers that serve it.

FARM BUSINESS & MARKETING

A Practical Introduction to Transitioning Farm Businesses and Farmland / Una introducción práctica a la transición de los negocios agrícolas y las tierras de cultivo ^{ES}

Elizabeth Bragg, Long Hearing Farm; Jack Hebner, Fulcrum Dispute Resolution Center; Anne Schwartz, Blue Heron Farm

Room 110

This session offers a practical introduction to farm transition planning. Participants can broaden their options to transfer farm ownership, operations, and land within or outside the family. Learn how to start the process, navigate common challenges, and access financial, legal, and professional resources. Hear from Elizabeth Bragg and Anne Schwartz of Long Hearing and Blue Heron farms. Anne and Elizabeth have been collaborating on transitioning Anne's farm operations for the last seven years. They will be joined by Jack Hebner of the Fulcrum Dispute Resolution Center based in Spokane. This workshop is designed for farm owners considering succession, beginning farmers in a transfer process (or curious about it), and families or partners exploring transition dynamics.

PRACTICAL SKILLS & PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Tools & Techniques for Assessing Soil Health

Jorge Cano, Casa Cano Farm; James Cassidy, Oregon State University; Leslie Michel, Washington State Dept. of Agriculture

Room 212

Maintaining soil health is critical for all scales of agricultural production. In this workshop, you'll have an opportunity to learn from soil scientists James Cassidy and Leslie Michel about tests and resources available for assessing the physical and biological properties of soils. In addition, fresh market grower Jorge Cano will report on his farm's techniques for building soil health, including no-till, cover crops, and compost teas.

Visit the Trade Show!

Located in the Great Room
Check the Trade Show hours on page 5.

Friday

SESSION E

FARM TO SCHOOL

Farm to School Office Hours

Room 108

Have questions about farm to school or facing a farm to school challenge you need help with? Stop by office hours to talk one-on-one with farm to school experts from Washington State Department of Agriculture's Farm to School Program, the Washington Farm to School Network, Bringing the Farm to School Project, and Seattle Public Schools. Curious about farm to school but not sure what questions to ask? Stop by to listen in and be part of the conversation!

TRANSITION TO ORGANIC

Simple Steps for Better Cover Crop Success / Pasos sencillos para mejorar el éxito de los cultivos de cobertura ^{ES}

Doug Collins, Washington State University; Francisco Farias, Farias Farm; Nate Minor, Eldur Heron Farm; Rob Smith, Viva Farms; Nathan Stacey, Oregon State University

Room 205

While the benefits of cover crops are widely touted, many conversations lack the practical guidance and the real-world experience that farmers need to confidently evaluate and adopt this practice. To help, the Western Cover Crops Council (WCCC) has developed a cover crop selection tool designed to simplify this decision-making process. In this session, WCCC representatives from Washington and Oregon State University will demonstrate features of the new selection tool and share insights from recent and past cover crop trials, highlighting what has worked and what hasn't. To improve cover cropping outcomes, local farmers and specialists are invited to contribute their firsthand experiences and expertise.

FARM BUSINESS & MARKETING

Finding Your Market

Jorge Cano, Casa Cano Farm; McKenzie Don Tigny, Billie's Diner; Brooke Lucy, Bluebird Grain Farms; Paul Rosen, Good Food Store

Room 110

This session producers will learn what buyers need and want. It is important for producers to have a variety of market outlets. In this workshop you will learn how to set up a wholesale market channel and what different buyers want. Each buyer will describe what they need in volume, time, prices, food safety, documentation and communication. They will describe how to develop a long-term relationship that enables the buyer to commit to you ahead of the season.

PRACTICAL SKILLS & PRODUCTION PRACTICES

How Do You Brew? Exploring Compost Teas and Extracts in the PNW

Lynne Carpenter-Boggs, Washington State University; Maren Friesen, Washington State University; Carol McFarland, Washington State University; Josh Riddle, Farm It, LLC

Room 212

How are compost teas and extracts currently used in the PNW? What microbes are present? Can compost tea enhance nutrient cycling? WSU researchers are working with farmers to study these aspects of compost teas/extracts. We'll share survey results from farmers, our analysis of compost tea/extract microbiomes, and a study of how compost tea affects straw breakdown. A farmer will talk about his experience using compost tea/extracts in his production system. Attendees can use this information to support on-farm decision-making around the use of compost teas/extracts. They can make connections with others utilizing compost teas/extracts to support the safe and effective use of these approaches.

ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

Advocacy for Agriculture in Washington: How to Navigate, Instigate, and Speak Out in the Legislature

Melinda Lupe Johnson, Lilith Moon Farm Agricultural Organization; Nils Johnson, Lilith Moon Farm Agricultural Organization; Melissa Spear, Tilth Alliance

Room 213

In order to ensure agricultural sustainability in the future, it is essential for farmers in Washington State to understand how to engage with the state's Legislature. This session will provide attendees with the knowledge and tools they need to effectively navigate the political system, from contacting legislative representatives to

Friday

organizing action days and setting appointments. By learning how to influence laws and policies, farmers can play a crucial role in shaping the future of agriculture in the state.

Growing Markets for Local Food

5:30-7:30 pm | Executive Conference Room

Our “Growing Markets for Local Food” event on Friday evening will provide a networking opportunity for farmers to meet with invited buyers, chefs, and restaurateurs who will be available to share their sourcing needs and expectations around supply, quality, and scale as they work with farmers entering new markets.

Farmers of all scales and types will be able to acquire useful insights attending this event, gaining access to resources and connections that will help them develop realistic strategies for scaling their businesses in sustainable ways and positioning their businesses for future opportunities – whether that means growing sales at the farmers market, supplying restaurants, or exploring wholesale readiness.

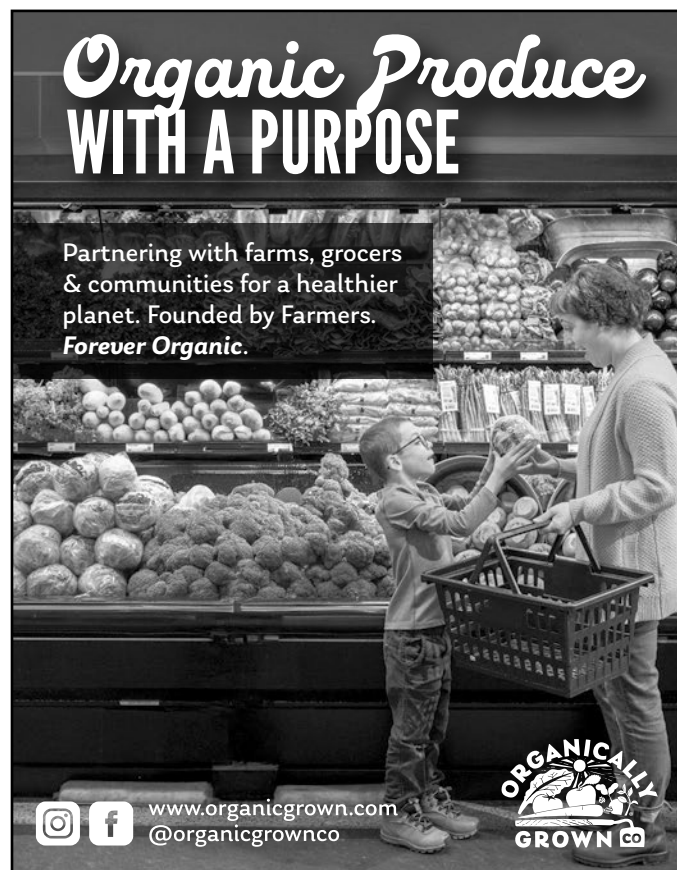
Underwriting for this event provided by Rodale Institute, in partnership with the Organic Trade Association and USDA's TOPP program, helps farmers find markets, resources, and community on the path to organic.



Fill out your conference evaluation form!

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GROWING THE ORGANIC MOVEMENT

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Rodale Institute's Markets Team, in partnership with the Organic Trade Association through USDA's Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP), is helping farmers nationwide grow the organic movement. We connect growers and buyers, to open new markets, strengthen supply chains, and make the transition to organic achievable for every farm.

Learn more at www.organictransition.org/region/national/

Contact markets@rodaleinstitute.org to get started today!

TOPP is a program of the USDA Organic Transition Initiative and is administered by the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service National Organic Program



Saturday

Farm Walk: Scale House Market, Vets on the Farm, Casa Cano Farms

We will be kicking off the tour at the Scale House Market, taking a ride to Vets on the Farm, and finishing up at Casa Cano Farms. Read on to learn more about these innovative and inspiring hosts!

Scale House Market	The Scale House Market is an innovative community space located in the heart of Spokane County, that has recently opened as a permanent, year-round farmers market and agricultural hub.
Vets on the Farm	Vets on the Farm is designed for Veterans seeking a new mission and a way to transition back into civilian life through careers in agriculture, farming, ranching, or other conservation-based industries.
Casa Cano Farms	Casa Cano Farms is a vegetable and livestock farm that focuses on the health of their farm ecosystem. They incorporate pasture-raised livestock and intensive minimal-till vegetable production, resulting in more nutritious and better tasting food.

This Farm Walk is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP).

About Farm Walks

WSU Food Systems Program and Tilth Alliance have been collaboratively organizing Farm Walks since 2004. These farmer-to-farmer educational opportunities are hosted by organic, sustainable, and innovative farm and food businesses throughout Washington State. We aim to highlight our farmer hosts and their unique expertise and experiences. We reach new, beginning, and existing farmers seeking education, advice, and mentorship from these experienced farmers, as well as agricultural and food systems professionals.




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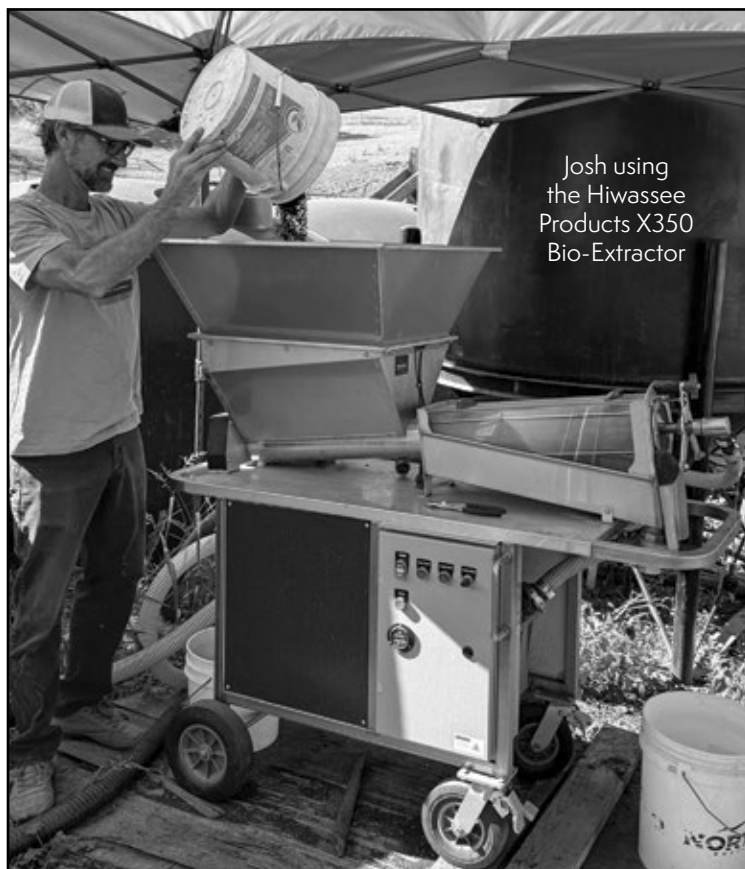
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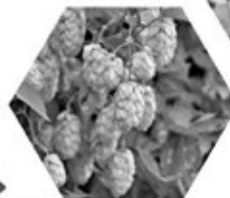
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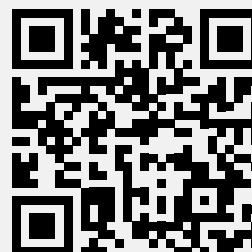
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**NORTHWEST
TRANSITION TO ORGANIC
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**



What is CORA?

CORA is a coalition of farmers, businesses, organizations, and activists advocating for programs and policies that support organic and regenerative agriculture in Washington.

Join CORA!

Joining our powerful coalition will give you the opportunity to provide input and feedback on CORA's advocacy priorities and make your voice heard. Help support the organic and regenerative movement in Washington!



Member Benefits

- Help shape CORA's strategic priorities
- Participate in the governance of CORA by nominating and voting on members of the Governing Council
- Apply to serve on the Governing Council
- Advocate on behalf of CORA's policy priorities
- Serve on CORA working groups and advisory committees
- Receive regular membership updates and advocacy action alerts



To learn more and get involved visit our website:

CORA-WA.org

Questions? Contact Brahmi Pugh at:
infocora@tilthalliance.org



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Visit the Trade Show!

*The trade show will be open during meals, breaks and
networking events during these hours.
It will close during conference programming.*

Wednesday	8 am-6 pm Great Room
Thursday	8 am-7 pm Great Room
Friday	8 am-2 pm Great Room



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