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## Organic industry looks to the future

*Annual Washington summit gets key players together*

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This year's Organic Summit, an annual event that brings leaders from organic and conventional food companies together in a forum to discuss the industry's future, will be June 3-5 at the Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, Wash.

The summit provides a retreat where leaders can network with one another, attend workshops on timely issues and get up to speed on today's "hot topics" and the impact they'll have on the industry.

During the summit, presented by New Hope Natural Media and the Organic Farming Research Foundation, more than 100 organizations will be represented.

Nell Newman, co-founder and president of Newman's Own Organics, will be the keynote speaker. She and Bob Scowcroft, executive director of the Organic Farming Research Foundation, will team up to discuss how to engage a social-networking generation in the important social, economic and environmental values delivered by organic food production.

Workshops, panel discussions and roundtable exchanges will focus on a range of topics, including the strides organic research has made in the 2008 Farm Bill.

Tracy Miedema, national sales and marketing manager for Stahlbush Island Farms near Corvallis, Ore., will participate in this year's summit as well.

A member of the National Organics Standards Board and the Sustainable Agriculture Standards Board, Miedema said she has found the summits' discussions to be very current and solution-oriented.

"They have all the gold nuggets," she said. "Organics is such a dynamic industry that it's important to stay abreast of topics that are important to farmers, processors and consumers."

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