

Midwest Farmer Production Resources

Curated research, guides, and experts from the Organic Research Hub picked for producers in the Midwest region of the US.

Organic Research Hub

The Organic Research Hub was built by the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF), a nonprofit that has supported organic farmers with science-based research and guidance for more than three decades, and was funded by the USDA. It exists because organic farmers kept asking for the same thing: one trustworthy place to find research-backed answers, instead of piecing them together from scattered websites and forums. Today, the Hub brings all of that research together into a single, free, searchable library, so you can spend less time hunting for answers and more time using them.



See all resources and a directory of organic experts curated for the Midwest region at hub.ofrf.org/regions/midwest.



Featured Resources for the Midwest Region:

The Midwest region includes Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

Research Summary



Shade Cloth for Pepper Seed Production

This final research report from OFRF and Lindsay Klaunig of Trouvaille Farm in Southeastern Ohio highlights farmer-led research investigating the **effect of shade cloth on pepper seed production**.

OFRF Farmer-Led Trial



Mechanical Management Strategies Improve Corn Production in Organically Managed Living Mulch Systems

Living mulches offer farmers a way to **reduce tillage and control weeds in organic production**, but more information is needed on how best to manage living mulches to reduce competition with the cash crop. This study evaluated different management practices for a **red clover living mulch in organic corn** and their effects on clover growth, weed control, and corn stands and yield.

View a PDF version of this document with hyperlinks, along with other resources on USDA programs that support organic production at www.ofrf.org/resources/topp/.



**TRANSITION TO ORGANIC
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**



Organic Grain Marketing in the Midwest Resource Guide

This guide describes best practices, buyer contacts, and networking tips for **organic grain marketing in the Midwest**, drawn from the OGRAIN 2025 Winter Conference market update and buyer perspective sessions.

OFRF Research Grant Report



Evaluation of Seeding Methods of Cover Crops Interseeded Into Organic Corn

Researchers evaluated **broadcast seeding cover crops into organic corn** during routine weed control operations as **an alternative to using a high-clearance drill**, testing various species across multi-site trials in Minnesota. Results showed that while routine weed-control equipment achieved comparable establishment to high-clearance drilling, additional multi-season research is needed to determine the repeatability and economic viability of this method.

Podcast



Innovations in Organic Agriculture t

Listen to this **Small Farm Sustainability Podcast** episode exploring innovations in organic agriculture, featuring conversations about **emerging practices and approaches** shaping the future of organic farming systems, markets, and producer decision-making today and tomorrow.

Tool



Veggie Compass: Economic Decision Support Tool

Veggie Compass is a decision-support tool that helps **diversified vegetable farmers understand production costs and evaluate profitability by crop and market channel**. It enables farmers to make decisions to adjust prices, reduce costs, shift market channel focus, reduce or drop unprofitable products, and expand production of their most profitable ventures based on their own farm data.

Webinar/Video



Managing Marssonina Leaf Blotch in Organic Apples

In this webinar, presented at the 2025 **Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA) Conference**, learn about the research being done by Zachary and Set Dobbelaer on **Marssonina Leaf Blotch management in organic apple orchards**.

FIND AN ORGANIC FARMING EXPERT NEAR YOU

Connect with 58+ verified Extension agents and researchers across all 11 states in the Midwest — search by name, state, or an interactive map. The directory is growing regularly.

