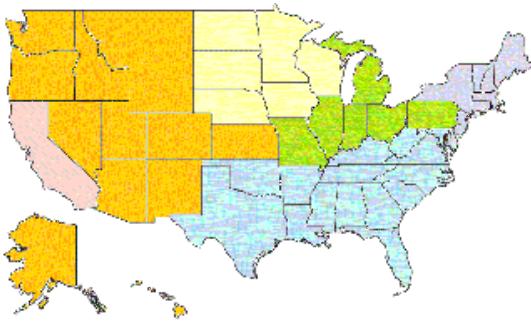


Organic Farming Association Policy Committee Nominees

The following individuals have submitted their candidacy for the election to the first Organic Farmers Association Policy Committee.

Certified organic farmers and organic farm organizations may still [submit their nomination](#) until COB Thursday, September 7.

Only [OFA farmer members](#) will be eligible to vote on the final candidate slate, to be released on Wednesday, September 13. Voting will be open for two weeks. [Join OFA today to be eligible to vote for policy representatives from your region.](#)



Policy Committee Nominees

California Region Farmer Nominees (2 open seats)

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| Kenneth Kimes | Greensward / New Natives, LLC | Aptos, CA | Greenhouse including Microgreens |
| I have been farming for over 35 years, and have served on the Board of Directors for the following organizations: Community Alliance with Family Farmers (10+ years), Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau Board (6 years), Agriculture Policy Advisory Commission (10 years), Monterey Bay Certified Farmers Markets, Action Pajaro Valley (farmland preservation task force), Santa Cruz County GMO Commission (we banned GMO's), and was on the Board of Directors for CCOF for many years. | | | |
| Mark McAfee | Organic Pastures | Fresno , CA | Dairy,Fruits, Tree Nuts, and Berries, |
| I am very interested in organic trade policy, food safety policy and market protection policy. I have been very active in policy development at national farmers union for the last 6 years. Organics are being overrun by money seeking industrial investors. That unto itself may be seen by some as a good thing, however, when the principles of organic production are lost in the trade....that is not right and cheats everyone! A primary example being CAFO produced zero pasture systems organic milk. This totally violates the NOP USDA policy on organic milk production. There appears to be two standards....the corrupt CAFO non pasture standard and the pastured for 120 days per year with 30% dry matter intake or else you lose your cert standard...!! When a 10,000 cow CAFO does not pasture their cows and the USDA allows them to get away with it, that causes massive fraud and mistrust for the organic market. The consumers and other producers are cheated and organic value is diluted. Enforcement must be evenly applied by each certifier. If not, there will be no organic market. | | | |
| Steve Beck | Kings River Produce | Fresno, CA | Field Crops (Grains),Fruits, Tree Nuts, and Berries, Hay, seeds, and minor field crops, Vegetables, Potatoes, and Melons, |
| Steve and Alice Beck, both Cal Poly graduates, along with their sons, Tyler, Zack and Ben complete the “family-owned, family grown” dynamics of Kings River Produce. Steve manages the day to day farm operations for the company; bringing his expertise in the areas of planting schedules, fertility crop management and pest control. Alice with her expertise in office management runs the daily office routines. | | | |

California Region Organization Nominees (1 open seat)

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| David Runsten | Policy Director | Community Alliance with Family Farmers | Davis, CA |
| I co-chair the NSAC Food Systems Integrity committee, which deals with labeling and certification issues. I am on the NSAC Executive Committee. I have worked with NSAC on several farm bills, and I am starting a greater effort on the next Farm Bill in California, targeting more legislators. | | | |

Western Region Farmer Nominees (2 open seats)

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| Bob Quinn | Quinn Farm & Ranch | Big Sandy, MT | Field Crops (Grains), Hay, seeds, |
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| | | | and minor field crops, Oilseeds, fats and oils, Vegetables, Potatoes, and Melons, |
| I am currently a member of the OFA Steering Committee. I have been an organic farmer over 30 years - 100% certified 27 years - served on first NOSB - have been active in developing ag policy in numerous ag organizations for nearly 40 years - regularly travel throughout the US and the world to market organic ag products from my farm and promote organic ag so have both a national and world perspective. | | | |

Western Region Organization Nominees (1 open seat)

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| Kristina (Kiki) Hubbard | Director of Advocacy | Organic Seed Alliance | Missoula, MT |
| I've worked in federal farm policy for 15 years in the issue areas of organic agriculture, biotechnology, and antitrust and intellectual property. I bring experience leading advocacy, communications, and development efforts for eight nonprofits, all of which represented farmers. And I bring strong relationships with these and other organic farmer membership groups, organic food and seed businesses, and other organic stakeholders. The mission of OFA is critical and timely. | | | |

North Central Region Farmer Nominees (2 open seats)

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| Francis Thicke | Radiance Dairy | Fairfield, IA | Dairy, Field Crops (Grains) |
| I am currently on the NOSB. I first began farming organically in 1975. In the past I have served as National Program Leader for Soil Science for the USDA-Extension Service. | | | |
| Joe Borgerding | Borgerding Farm | Belgrade , MN | Cattle, hogs, and sheep, Dairy, Field Crops (Grains), Hay, seeds, and minor field crops, |
| I served MN. Milk Producers Assn. as a board director for 10 years. I was also a director of the Dairy Policy Action Coalition for several years and lobbied for dairy farm policy for the 2014 Farm Bill. When the DARK Act was up for the vote in Congress, I went to D.C. with our co-op, Organic Valley, to lobby Senators and explain why it was a bad and deceptive bill. Our dairy has been Organic since 2004, but I have been working to protect family operated farms and encourage them to consider farming organically. I also spent 9 years on the board of managers for the North Fork Crow River Watershed District, where I shared my experience with soils and cover crops as a way to reduce runoff and improve water quality. | | | |
| Charles Self | Grassway Organics | New Holstein, WI | Cattle, hogs, and sheep, Dairy, Hay, seeds, and minor field crops, Poultry, On farm tourism |
| Chaz and his partner Megan Self followed a dream and took over Grassway Organics March 21st, 2016. Neither Chaz nor Megan grew up on a farm but they both have a passion for farming and sustainable agriculture. Raising their three young sons — Otik, Oscoda, and Xasion —on a farm was the only option they considered. The couple pledged from the start that Organic and grazing was the only way they would farm. They milk about 35 Jersey cows and graze all of their calves on 210 acres of pasture. Because they value diversity, they also pasture-raise chickens for eggs and meat, dairy steers for meat, turkeys for Thanksgiving and finish to farrow hogs. | | | |
| Harriet Behar | Sweet Springs Farm | Gays Mills, WI | Field Crops (Grains), Floriculture Crops, Nursery Crops, Propagative Materials, and Mushrooms, Grapes, Hay, seeds, and minor field crops, Vegetables, Potatoes, and Melons, culinary and medicinal herbs- fresh and dried |
| I have been involved with federal, state and local policy advocacy for over 20 years. I work with MOSES, and am an active member of NSAC and NOC. I am the co-chair of the WI Organic Advisory Council. on my county conservation committee and the chair of my town plan commission. I am on the WI NRCS State Technical Committee. I am a current member of the National Organic Standards Board. I have run a certified organic farm since 1989. | | | |

North Central Region Organization Nominees (1 open seat)

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| Samuel Welsch | President | OneCert, Inc. | Lincoln, NE |
| I started One-Cert, Inc, an organic certification agency in March 2003 to provide certification to the US NOP, EU, JAS, and the GOTS and TE | | | |

textile programs. Before that I served as the Executive Director for OCIA International.

Midwest Region Farmer Nominees (2 open seats)

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| Michael Adsit | Plymouth Orchards | Plymouth, MI | Apples, Fruits, Tree Nuts, and Berries, Hay, seeds, and minor field crops, pumpkins |
| I serve on the OFA Steering Committee and have extensive experience in policy from state-level policy work in Illinois as well as federal experience. I am committed to organic small family farms and finding ways to make them thrive. My wife and I currently run a small family farm orchard and agritourism business outside Ann Arbor, MI. | | | |
| Shawn Brown | XIV Ranch | Vandalia , MI | Field Crops (Grains), Hay, seeds, and minor field crops,Oilseeds, fats and oils |
| Shawn operates an organic grain farm in Michigan’s Cass county with his wife and daughters. | | | |

Midwest Region Organization Nominees (1 open seat)

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| Casey Trinkaus | Livestock & Poultry Specialist | The Fertrell Company | Bainbridge, PA |
| Federal farm policy has always been an interest of mine and it has shaped both my educational background and my work experience. I hold a masters degree in food studies from Chatham University that focused on food policy and a graduate certificate from Michigan State University in food law. I am also certified as an organic livestock inspector by IOIA. My position with The Fertrell Company as a Livestock & Poultry Specialist has given me 3 years of hands-on experience working with certified organic farms all across the US in livestock nutrition, pasture rotations, crop selections, and animal health and welfare among other things. This broad geographic scope has allowed me to work with organic certifiers from almost every major certifying agency and has allowed me to work with farmers raising every type of livestock and crop organically. I have an in-depth knowledge of the management practices used in organic production as well as the products and inputs that are allowed or disallowed. I am also familiar with the struggles that plague organic farmers across the US which I believe to be very important when determining farm policies at the national level. I bring my diverse knowledge and experience, plus my formal educational background, to the table to help represent certified organic farmers at the national level. | | | |

Southern Region Farmer Nominees (2 open seats)

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| Loretta Adderson | Adderson's Fresh Produce | Hephzibah, GA | Apples, Fruits, Tree Nuts, and Berries, Grapes, Vegetables, Potatoes, and Melons, Herbs |
| I am a retired Nutritionist with over 20th years of service with Pennsylvania State University Cooperative Extension Services, Pennsylvania Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs, Fort Valley State University Food Service Director and Board Director at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. In 2001, I found LS Adderson, Inc. Food & Nutrition Consulting and in 2007 came back to our Family Owned Farm and started Adderson's Fresh Produce with my husband. Our mission is to grow healthy food and preserve land. We are active members of Georgia Organic and Augusta Oasis. In addition to managing our 56 acres farm, we conduct training and workshops for new and transitioning farmers in organic production. Our farm is multi-generational and definitely a Millennium Farm. | | | |
| Laura Freeman | Mt. Folly Farm | Winchester, KY | Field Crops (Grains) |
| In the 1980's Mel Coleman and Laura were the two that got the USDA to certify farms and approve USDA labels for no antibiotics and no hormones in beef. On her Mt. Folly Farm’s 150 acres, her goal is to sequester carbon in the soil, moving away from fossil fuel-based fertilizers. Laura has partnered with the USDA NRCS to track and publish biological and financial data of her efforts over the next 10 years. Previously, Laura was President and CEO of The Laura’s Lean Beef Company. Before selling Laura’s to Meyer Natural Beef of California in 2008, she took the business from a \$10,000-a-year on-farm company to an annual \$135 million supplier to more than 6,000 retailers in the USA and Canada. Laura is a 2008 inductee into the Bluegrass Business Hall of Fame, and a member of the Administrative Council of the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program of USDA. | | | |
| Jennifer Taylor | Lola’s Organic Farm | Glenwood, GA | Fruits, Tree Nuts, and Berries, Grapes, Vegetables, Potatoes, and Melons, strawberries, ginger, turmeric, coffee |
| I serve on the Steering Committee for Organic Farmers Association and am an advocate for organic farming systems and underserved farming | | | |

populations including minority farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, resource poor, small farmers, and beginning farming populations. I am also an associate professor in the Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Agriculture and Food Sciences (CAFS) and served on the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) 2011 – 2016. My certified organic farm was formerly owned and run by my grandmother.

Southern Region Organization Nominees (1 open seat)

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| Michael Sligh | Program Director | Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI-USA) | Pittsboro, NC |
| Michael serves on the OFA Steering Committee. As a founding member of RAFI, Michael manages policy, research and education regarding agricultural best practices, agricultural biodiversity, biotechnology, organic identity preservation and a range of food justice and other value-added food labeling, and marketing issues. He has more than 30 year of experience in agricultural practices and policy analysis, including both domestic and international work. Michael holds the following titles: Founding Chair of the National Organic Standards Board (a federal advisory committee to the USDA); Founder of Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (SSAWG); Founder of National Organic Coalition, Founding partner of Agricultural Justice Project, Founding member of Domestic Fair Trade Association. He is also a part-time family farmer and a trained anthropologist. Michael lives, farms and works in North Carolina. | | | |

Northeast Region Farmer Nominees (2 open seats)

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| Rodney Graham | Oxbow Organic Farm | Hunt, NY | Field Crops (Grains), Hay, seeds, and minor field crops, Oilseeds, fats and oils |
| Previous president of OCIA NY. After 20 years of being a certified organic farmer, I would like to be more involved in the policy side of things. | | | |
| Michael Casper | Casper's Farm | Ithaca , NY | Field Crops (Grains), Hay, seeds, and minor field crops, Microgreens |
| My exposure to State and Federal criteria for farm operations started in 2009 when I opened a vegan hotel in Ithaca, NY. We started growing organic microgreens indoors for consumption by our hotel guests. | | | |
| Austin "Brud" Hodgkins | Indoor Organic Gardens of Poughkeepsie | Poughkeepsie, NY | CEA Microgreen Stage Vegetables/Compost |
| Brud has a background in finance and later founded Indoor Organic Gardens of Poughkeepsie in the Hudson Valley of NY. He has served on numerous community boards. In 2015 he started an indoor urban farm on Main Street in Poughkeepsie, NY. The farm model revolves around the resources at hand in the heart of Poughkeepsie; that is unoccupied building space and employment of veterans and youth who are challenged to find work. The indoor garden provides nutrient-rich organic microgreens to surrounding restaurants, retail stores, schools, hospitals, assisted living facilities and more. The Indoor Organic Gardens of Poughkeepsie offers a large variety of microgreens including sunflower and pea shoots, micro kale, micro basil and micro salad mixes. His policy experience includes interfacing with USDA, Senator Gillibrand, US Congress (Faso, Maloney), State Sen Serino, Cornell Univ, etc. | | | |
| Jim Gerritsen | Wood Prairie Family Farm | Bridgewater, ME | Maine Certified Seed Potatoes, seed crops, vegetables and grain |
| I, along with my wife Megan, am an organic farmer who has owned and run Wood Prairie Family Farm in northern Maine for 40 years. Wood Prairie Family Farm has been a MOFGA-certified organic farm since 1982. In addition to farming, I have been active in the organic community with NGOs for four decades. I co-founded and now serve as President of Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association (OSGATA). In the past, I've served as President of Organic Seed Alliance (OSA) in Washington State. I served for over twenty years on the Certification Committee of Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) and helped MOFGA pass the State of Maine's GMO Labeling law in 2013, the second such law passed in the United States. Other boards I have served on include: Direct Gardening Association, St John-Aroostook Resource Conservation & Development (RC & D) Council. I also co-founded a local chapter of Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA). In October 2011, I was named as one of '25 Visionaries Who Are Changing the World' by Utne Reader magazine. In 2014 and 2016, I participated in the Agrarian Elders Gatherings held in Big Sur, California. In 2014 I spoke at the United Nations in NYC about the advantages of organic farming. | | | |

Northeast Region Organization Nominees (1 open seat)

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| Edward Maltby | Executive Director | Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance | Deerfield, MA |
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| Working in the US and Europe on policy that directly affects producers; working nationally on organic policy as a member of National Organic Coalition (NOC), National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC); working regionally on policy and development of cooperatives. | | | |
| Joseph Heckman, PhD | Board Member | Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey | New Brunswick, NJ |
| As a professor of Soil Science at Rutgers University I teach an undergraduate level course in Organic Crop Production. I also conduct research in organic farming systems and I have many publications related organic agriculture. | | | |