



# ADVANCING ORGANICS

CONFERENCE & TRADE SHOW

**MARCH 27 & 28, 2024**  
SASKATOON INN & CONFERENCE CENTRE  
SASKATOON, SK

## PROGRAM



This program belongs to: \_\_\_\_\_



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# WELCOME

Spring has sprung! We're excited to welcome the season as we look forward to everything amazing that spring brings to Saskatchewan. It's no coincidence that our Advancing Organics Conference & Trade Show lands at this time of renewal and growth! It's our chance to chat with our members and partners about the seasons to come.

I'm optimistic that our conference this year will be just the start that our organic producers and processors need to get back into the swing of things. With an excellent lineup of speakers, a diverse trade show, and time for conversations with friends new and old, Advancing Organics 2024 is sure to start the growing season off right.

We hope that you enjoy the conference, take advantage of opportunities to mix and mingle, shake hands with old acquaintances, and enjoy the feeling of renewal and new opportunities that spring holds for everyone.

Thank you for joining us as we embark on another exciting year, full of potential for the future of organic production, and the health of our land, our families, and ourselves. Enjoy the show!

Sincerely,



Michelle Beckett, Executive Director  
On behalf of the Staff and Board of SaskOrganics



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

On behalf of City Council, it is my pleasure to welcome all the attendees of the Advancing Organics Conference and Trade Show 2024 to Saskatoon, located in Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis.

The world is increasingly turning to Saskatchewan for innovative agricultural solutions, as demand for organically-grown crops and sustainable farming practices has continued to increase. Saskatoon has a proud history in ground-breaking agricultural and related research, including the University of Saskatchewan's Global Institute for Food Security and Global Institute for Water Security, as well as the Agri-Food Innovation Centre. I hope that at this conference, you will learn from one another and help keep local growers, producers, and organizations on the cutting edge of the industry.

To all of those visiting Saskatoon, I hope that you enjoy your stay and that you are able to eat at one of our fantastic local restaurants, shop at our many unique stores, or perhaps pay a visit some to the beautiful Meewasin river valley, the Remai Modern Art Gallery, or Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Thank you to the organizers of this conference for all your hard work and for choosing Saskatoon to be your host. I wish everyone the best for a successful conference.

Attendees

Exhibitors

Sincerely,



Charlie Clark  
Mayor



# PROGRAM

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27



Time (CST)	Session & Speakers
9:00am-9:45am	<b>Registration &amp; Trade Show</b>
9:45am-9:55am	<b>Welcome &amp; President's Address</b>
9:55am-10:00am	<b>Executive Director's Address</b>
10:00am-10:55am	<p><b>Session 1: Mycorrhizal ecology, and bacterial and fungal soil communities</b></p> <p>Monika Gorzelak, PhD, Research Scientist, Soil Microbial Ecology, Lethbridge Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada</p>
10:55am-11:55am	<p><b>Session 2: The benefits of grazing &amp; grazing agreements</b></p> <p>Kevin Elmy, CPAg, Cover Crop Consultant Sean McGrath, Round Rock Ranching, Vermillion, AB</p>
11:55am-12:00pm	<b>Sponsor Acknowledgements &amp; Announcements</b>
12:00pm-1:30pm	<b>Lunch &amp; Trade Show</b>
1:30pm-2:45pm	<p><b>Session 3: Valuing the ecological resources on the farm</b></p> <p>Kenneth Belcher, PhD, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Saskatchewan Bryan Mood, PhD, E.P, Lecturer and Renewable Resource Management Program Coordinator, Department of Soil Science, University of Saskatchewan</p>
2:45pm-3:25pm	<p><b>Session 4: Mental health in agriculture: Preventing burnout</b></p> <p>Megz Reynolds, Executive Director, The Do More Agriculture Foundation <i>Session Sponsored by FCC</i></p>
3:25pm-3:45pm	<b>Refreshment Break &amp; Trade Show</b>
3:45pm-4:45pm	<p><b>Session 5: Farm labor &amp; mentorship</b></p> <p>Anita Warriner, International Rural Exchange (IRE) Glenys &amp; Mark Neuman, Organic Farmers, GlenMar Acres, Frobisher SK Fred Reibin, Saskatchewan Program Manager, Young Agrarians</p>
4:45pm-5:30pm	<b>Session 6: Networking Session</b>

Exhibitors

5:30pm–6:30pm

**Cocktails, Trade Show, Networking**



# ORGANIC BANQUET

## MARCH 27



*Banquet tickets are sold separately from conference tickets. Limited quantity available.*

6:30pm

**Organic Banquet**

7:15pm

**Welcome**

7:20pm–7:35pm

**Education Scholarship & Outstanding Organic Farmer Awards Announcements**

7:35pm–8:30pm

**Banquet Keynote:  
Why we should listen to plants**



**Prakash Venglat**

PhD, © PHYTOCENTRIC Consulting and Coaching  
Dept. Plant Science, University of Saskatchewan

Prakash is a plant biologist with deep interest in agriculture, biodiversity, and plant evolution. He has worked in several research organizations with a long-term view of plant / crop improvement from a developmental and genetics perspective.

Prakash has over 30 years of research experience in understanding plant growth, development, and adaptation by building models to understand how plants build structures which become part of our food.

8:30pm

**Announcements & Closing Remarks**

9:00pm

**Banquet Conclusion**



# PROGRAM

## THURSDAY, MARCH 28



Time (CST)	Session & Speakers
7:30am–8:00am	<b>Registration &amp; Trade Show</b>
8:00am–8:55am	<b>Session 1: Cropping systems approach for weed management in organic systems</b> Dilshan Benaragama PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Manitoba
8:55am–9:45am	<b>Session 2: Advancing Organics: The modernization of rod weeders</b> Tyler Remoué, MSc, EIT, Organic Producer & Entrepreneur, Rockglen, SK
9:45am–10:05am	<b>Refreshment Break &amp; Trade Show</b>
10:05am–11:00am	<b>Session 3: Cover cropping &amp; soil health</b> Kevin Elmy, CPAg, Cover Crop Consultant
11:00am–11:30am	<b>Session 4: Organic Grain Hub &amp; market insights</b> Marie-Eve Levert, Director of Business Development, Organic Grain Hub
11:30am–12:00pm	<b>Session 5: Organic Action Plan &amp; Sustainable Agriculture Strategy updates</b> Allison Squires, President, Canadian Organic Growers (COG), Producer, Upland Organics
12:00pm–1:30pm	<b>Lunch &amp; Trade Show</b>
1:30pm–2:45pm	<b>SaskOrganics Annual General Meeting</b>
2:45pm–3:40pm	<b>Session 6: Nutrient budgeting and an introduction to the Nutrient Budgeting App</b> Joanne Thiessen Martens PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Soil Science, University of Manitoba

Year

# THURSDAY, MARCH 28 Continued

**Time (CST)**

**Session & Speakers**

3:40pm-4:25pm

**Session 7: From here to beer! Could SK be home to the top organic brew? A tasty journey from crop to keg**

Gina Feist, B.Sc., MBA, PAg, Executive Director, Brewing and Malting Barley Research Institute

Matt Enns, Owner/Operator, Maker's Malt

Garrett Pederson, Co-Founder, COO, Head Brewer, 9 Mile Legacy Brewing

4:30pm

**Conference Conclusion**



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA



**Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024**

**Time: 1:30pm - 2:45pm**

**Venue: Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre**

**Saskatchewan B Ballroom**

**2002 Airport Dr, Saskatoon, SK**

- 1 Establish Quorum/Call Meeting to Order
- 2 Review & Approve Agenda
- 3 Review & Approve Minutes from last AGM (March 23, 2023)
- 4 Reports
  - 4.1 President
  - 4.2 Executive Director
- 5 Financial Report
  - 5.1 Review & Accept Reviewed 2023 Financial Statements
  - 5.2 Appoint Reviewer for 2024 (Baker Tilly)
- 6 Director Elections
- 7 Adjournment



# SPEAKER & SESSION INFORMATION

March 27

## Session Summaries

To save paper in the print program, session summaries can be read online at [www.advancingorganics.ca/program](http://www.advancingorganics.ca/program).

**CEU Credits available for certain sessions.**

See sessions below for details. Please contact [admin@saskorganic.com](mailto:admin@saskorganic.com) after the event is over to obtain the CEU sign-in sheets.



### **Monika Gorzelak**

PhD, Research Scientist, Soil Microbial Ecology, Lethbridge Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada

Dr. Monika Gorzelak has a PhD from UBC in mycorrhizal ecology focusing on emergent properties of mycorrhizas including communication, facilitation, and kin recognition. She works on mycorrhizas in agriculture at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as a research scientist. Her work also covers bacterial and fungal communities and how they contribute to nutrient cycling and soil health. She

works with farmers practicing regenerative agriculture and hopes to capture the effects of those practices on soil carbon sequestration and soil microbiome.

### **Session**

**March 27: Session 1: Mycorrhizal ecology, and bacterial and fungal soil communities**

Soil & Water Management CEUs: 1



### **Kevin Elmy**

CPAg, Cover Crop Consultant

Kevin is a cover crop consultant and soil health coach with experience across western Canada working with producers to develop a production system to help build soil resilience while maintaining or improving profitability.

### **Session**

**March 27: Session 2: The benefits of grazing and grazing agreements**

Crop Management CEUs: 1



## Sean McGrath

Round Rock Ranching, Vermillion, AB

Sean owns and operates Round Rock Ranching, a 5th generation ranch with his wife Tanya and their children. The ranch is a grazing based operation and sells breeding stock, feeder cattle, consumer-direct beef and environmental goods and services. In 2014, the ranch was awarded provincial and national environmental stewardship awards. In addition to ranching, Sean provides consulting services related to the ranching industry, focusing on genetics, forage

production, grazing and business management. As well, Sean retails electric fencing supplies and forage/cover crop seed.

### Session

**March 27: Session 2: The benefits of grazing and grazing agreements**

Crop Management CEUs: 1



## Kenneth Belcher

PhD, Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Saskatchewan

Ken Belcher is a professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Saskatchewan. His research interests are in the area of environmental, resource and ecological economics with a primary focus on the interactions between economic systems and the environment.

### Session

**March 27: Session 3: Valuing the ecological resources on the farm**

Crop Management CEUs: 1



## Bryan Mood

PhD, E.P, Lecturer and Renewable Resource Management Program Coordinator, Department of Soil Science, University of Saskatchewan

Bryan works with producers to better understand their shelterbelt trees. He has led the development of multiple toolkits supporting users to make important decisions on their land. Bryan's work seeks to inform landowners in Saskatchewan about the many benefits of shelterbelts to support land management and resilience to weather events.

### Session

**March 27: Session 3: Valuing the ecological resources on the farm**

Crop Management CEUs: 1



## Megz Reynolds

Executive Director, The Do More Agriculture Foundation

Megz has first hand experience in agriculture as a former grain farmer and is personally familiar with the unique challenges the industry faces. Through grassroots advocacy and policy work Megz has been part of creating change at a provincial, federal and global level, always with a focus on the mental health of producers and the industry as a whole. As the Executive Director of The Do

More Agriculture Foundation, Megz is using her background and lived experience to continue the conversation, raise awareness for mental health in agriculture, create community, build and strengthen partnerships and do more for those in agriculture, their families and rural communities.

Session sponsored by



### Session

**March 27: Session 4: Mental health in agriculture: Preventing burnout**



## Anita Warriner

BA, International Rural Exchange (IRE)

Anita Warriner farmed organically with her husband Foster for over 30 years, and has led International Rural Exchange Canada since 2009. Anita and Foster have hosted nearly 100 young people for long and short-term stays through IREC and other organizations, and their lives and farm were greatly enriched by the experience.

### Session

**March 27: Session 5: Farm labor & mentorship**



## Glenys & Mark Neuman

Organic Producers, GlenMar Acres, Frobisher, SK

Mark & Glenys farm in the SE corner of SK, 20 miles from both the Manitoba and North Dakota borders. They have been farming organically since 2003 and their operation consists of beef cattle, organic grain, and forages. They met because of their respective agricultural exchanges: Mark was in Australia in 1984-85 and Glenys was in New Zealand in 1985-1986. Having been exchange students in their early 20s, they knew that it was something they wanted to participate in with their farm. They have been a host family since 2009 and have hosted trainees from Switzerland, Ukraine, Denmark, England, Germany, and New Zealand. Coincidentally, they are hosting the son of Glenys' host father this year! It has been very fulfilling to have their IRE relationships last for decades.

### Session

**March 27: Session 5: Farm labor & mentorship**



## **Fred Reibin**

Saskatchewan Program Manager, Young Agrarians

Born and raised on the family farm near Duck Mountain Provincial park, Fred learned the homestead life from an early age. Now, he acts as the Saskatchewan Program Manager for the Young Agrarians – supporting new regenerative farmers of all ages across the province.

### **Session**

**March 27: Session 5: Farm labor & mentorship**

# **SPEAKER & SESSION INFORMATION**

**March 28**



## **Dilshan Benaragama**

PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Manitoba

Dr. Dilshan Benaragama is an Assistant Professor at University of Manitoba. He is an accomplished academic in the field of plant science, particularly specializing in weed management. Beginning his academic journey in Sri Lanka, he obtained his Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from the University of Peradeniya before venturing to Canada in 2008 to pursue higher education. He completed his Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Agronomy and Weed Ecology at the University of Saskatchewan, where his research focused on crop yields and weed dynamics under diverse cropping systems. Dr. Benaragama's contributions to the field are substantial, with a particular emphasis on integrated weed management and cropping systems research including both organic and conventional systems. His research has led to over 15 journal publications, covering topics relevant to both temperate and tropical cropping systems. Additionally, he holds the position of Crop Protection Chair in weed management, where he spearheads a five-year research program funded by producer groups in Western Canada. A notable aspect of Dr. Benaragama's current work is his focus on integrating remote sensing technologies into weed research, with the aim of developing innovative weed management tools.

### **Session**

**March 28: Session 1: Cropping systems approach for weed management in organic systems**

Integrated Pest Management CEUs: 1



## **Tyler Remoué**

MSc, EIT, Organic Producer & Entrepreneur, Rockglen, SK

Tyler, hailing from Rockglen, SK, embodies a multi-faceted role as an organic farmer, innovator, and entrepreneur. With deep-seated family ties to both farming and mechanics, he embarked on an academic journey, earning a BSc degree in Ag-Bio Engineering in 2004, followed by an MSc in Ag-Bio Engineering in 2008. Tyler's professional trajectory led him to serve as a Design Engineer for Case New Holland for several years, where he honed his skills and expertise.

Driven by a passion for sustainable agriculture and a desire to contribute to the farming community, Tyler eventually returned to his roots, channeling his experiences into the operations of the family farm.

### **Session**

**March 28: Session 2: Advancing Organics: The modernization of rod weeders**

Crop Management CEUs: 1



## **Kevin Elmy**

CPAg, Cover Crop Consultant

**See bio on page 7**

### **Session**

**March 28: Session 3: Cover cropping and soil health**

Crop Management CEUs: 1



## **Marie-Eve Levert**

Director of Business Development, Organic Grain Hub

Marie-Eve is the Director of Business Development at the Organic Grain Hub, where she focuses on fostering trade leads, researching trends, and building partnerships. With extensive experience in trade, international relations, and strategic planning for the agri-food sector, Marie-Eve has led multiple international trade missions and played key roles in the organic community, including industry chair of the Organic Value Chain Round Table. She is passionate about sustainable agriculture and is dedicated to advancing the organic industry's interests.

### **Session**

**March 28: Session 4: Organic Grain Hub & market insights**

Professional Development CEUs: 0.5



## **Allison Squires**

President, Canadian Organic Growers, Producer, Upland Organics

Allison owns and operates Upland Organics ([www.uplandorganics.ca](http://www.uplandorganics.ca)), a family-run mixed cattle and certified organic grain farm located near Wood Mountain, Saskatchewan, Canada. Allison joined the board of directors of the Canadian Organic Growers in 2018 and was elected to President in May 2022. In this role Allison has the honour of representing organic farmers at the National level. Doing this, she helps to lead the discussion around the benefits of an organic

production system and how these can contribute to the future of sustainable agriculture in Canada.

### **Session**

**March 28: Session 5: Organic Action Plan & Sustainable Agriculture Strategy updates**



## **Joanne Thiessen Martens**

PhD, Assistant Professor, Dept of Soil Science, University of Manitoba

Dr. Joanne Thiessen Martens is Assistant Professor of Soil Chemistry and Fertility in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Manitoba. Her research interests focus on nutrient flows in agroecosystems, especially phosphorus dynamics. Joanne previously worked in research, extension, and education related to organic and ecological farming

systems in the Natural Systems Agriculture lab in the Department of Plant Science at the University of Manitoba. She has worked with farmers, agronomists, extension personnel, and researchers across Manitoba and Canada, as well as internationally.

### **Session**

**March 28: Session 6: Nutrient budgeting & an introduction to the Nutrient Budgeting App**

Nutrient Management CEUs: 1



## **Gina Feist**

Executive Director, Brewing and Malting Barley Research Institute

Gina Feist is the Executive Director of the Brewing and Malting Barley Research Institute (BMBRI). Throughout her career Gina has worked in diverse research related roles, starting at the lab bench early in her career, moving on to business development and intellectual property management, and prior to joining BMBRI she was the research program manager at the Western Grains Research Foundation.

### **Session**

**March 28: Session 7: From here to beer! Could SK be home to the top organic brew? A tasty journey from crop to keg**



## Matt Enns

Owner/Operator, Maker's Malt

Matt Enns was born into a 3rd generation mixed farm in the Sask Valley near Rosthern, Saskatchewan. Often told by his father he was “just not a farmer”, Matt attended post-secondary and was a Division 1 student/athlete at the University of Saskatchewan graduating in 2004. Now a recovering professional, Matt was a Physical Therapist for 12 years in the nearby city of Saskatoon, all the while retaining a connection to the farm working with Double E Grain, his Dad’s grain operation. In 2010, Matt bought out a neighboring farm to join a small collective of 4 owner-operators and in 2014, he let his Physio license go to become a full-time farmer. Matt found a niche on the farm leading the commodity marketing and secondary to a long-list of interesting factors, stumbled upon the idea of setting up Saskatchewan’s first small-batch malting facility. In late 2017, Maker’s Malt produced its first batch and since that time Matt has been immersed in the world of malting barley, both commodity and craft. Matt is currently the chair of the Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission and on numerous boards including the North American Craft Maltsters Guild, the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Center and the Brewing and Malting Barley Research Institute. Matt currently resides 3 blocks from the malt house alongside Katie, and has an exciting household with three year-old twin boys and a newborn.

### Session

**March 28: Session 7: From here to beer! Could SK be home to the top organic brew? A tasty journey from crop to keg**



## Garrett Pederson

Co-Founder, COO, Head Brewer, 9 Mile Legacy Brewing

Garrett Pederson is the Co-Founder, COO and Head Brewer at 9 Mile Legacy Brewing. Before making the switch to brewing, Garrett had a career at Golder Associates Ltd. There he managed a Quality Assurance and Quality Control testing Laboratory. On the job he learned many transferable skills including Quality Lab Testing, process flow, project management and Health and Safety. Although the work at Golder was fun and rewarding, Garrett still has more fun testing beer than he ever did testing dirt and rocks!

Prior to 9 Mile Legacy, Garrett had been homebrewing with his business partner, Shawn Moen beginning in 2007. He has now been in the commercial brewing industry for 9 years.

As COO and Head Brewer at 9 Mile Legacy, Garrett is focused on creating high quality, small batch craft ales and lagers. Garrett has overseen operations since the beginning of 9 Mile Legacy in 2015. This includes building out and designing three different locations with the most recent Production Brewery located at 402 21st Street West in Saskatoon.

9 Mile Legacy was awarded a Gold medal for their 9 Mile Ale in 2019 and a Gold medal for their Angus Stout in 2020 at the Canadian Beer Awards.

Saskatchewan has some of the world’s best grains to brew with. 9 Mile Legacy has always used as many local products as possible in their beer; this includes barley, wheat, durum wheat and now Canary Seed.

Growing up on the farm and now working in the brewing industry to help create ag-value in the Province is very exciting to Garrett.

### Session

**March 28: Session 7: From here to beer! Could SK be home to the top organic brew? A tasty journey from crop to keg**



# EXHIBITOR LIST



We are grateful for the support of our Exhibitors who enable SaskOrganics to host Advancing Organics. Thank you for the work you do for the organic sector in Saskatchewan, and for making a great trade show!

## Trade Show Hours

**March 27th: 9:00am-6:30pm**

**March 28: 7:30am-3:00pm**

### Booth # / Company

### Booth # / Company

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1</b> Fresh Hemp Foods Ltd.                                 | <b>15</b> Ecocert Canada                    |
| <b>2</b> MGM Seed & Grain / Bay State Milling                  | <b>16</b> Enargia Technologies Ltd.         |
| <b>3</b> Back to Your Roots Soil Solutions                     | <b>17</b> F.W. Cobs Company                 |
| <b>4</b> Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association (SaskSoil) | <b>18</b> Sunrise Foods International       |
| <b>5</b> NutriAg Ltd. / HickSeed                               | <b>19</b> Stonehenge Global Seeds Inc.      |
| <b>6</b> Mumm's Sprouting Seeds                                | <b>20</b> TCO Cert                          |
| <b>7</b> Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership (STEP)      | <b>21</b> Heliae Agriculture                |
| <b>8</b> Grain Millers   | <b>22</b> Avena Foods Ltd.                  |
| <b>9</b> Prairie Heritage Seeds                                | <b>23</b> XiteBio Technologies Inc.         |
| <b>10</b> SureSource Commodities LLC.                          | <b>24</b> Saskatchewan Pension Plan         |
| <b>11</b> Oleet Processing Ltd. / O&T Farms                    | <b>25</b> Greenhouse in the Snow Canada     |
| <b>12</b> La Milanaise   | <b>26</b> Nutrasun Foods                    |
| <b>13</b> Pro-Cert Organic Systems Ltd.                        | <b>27</b> Frontlink Inc.                    |
| <b>14</b> KBI Seed Processing                                  | <b>28</b> Schmitt Organics / Shift Organics |
|  | <b>29</b> Purple Cow Organics               |
|  | <b>30</b> One Degree Organics               |

Year

Venue

Attendees

Exhibitors

**TRADE SHOW FLOOR MAP**  
NEXT PAGE

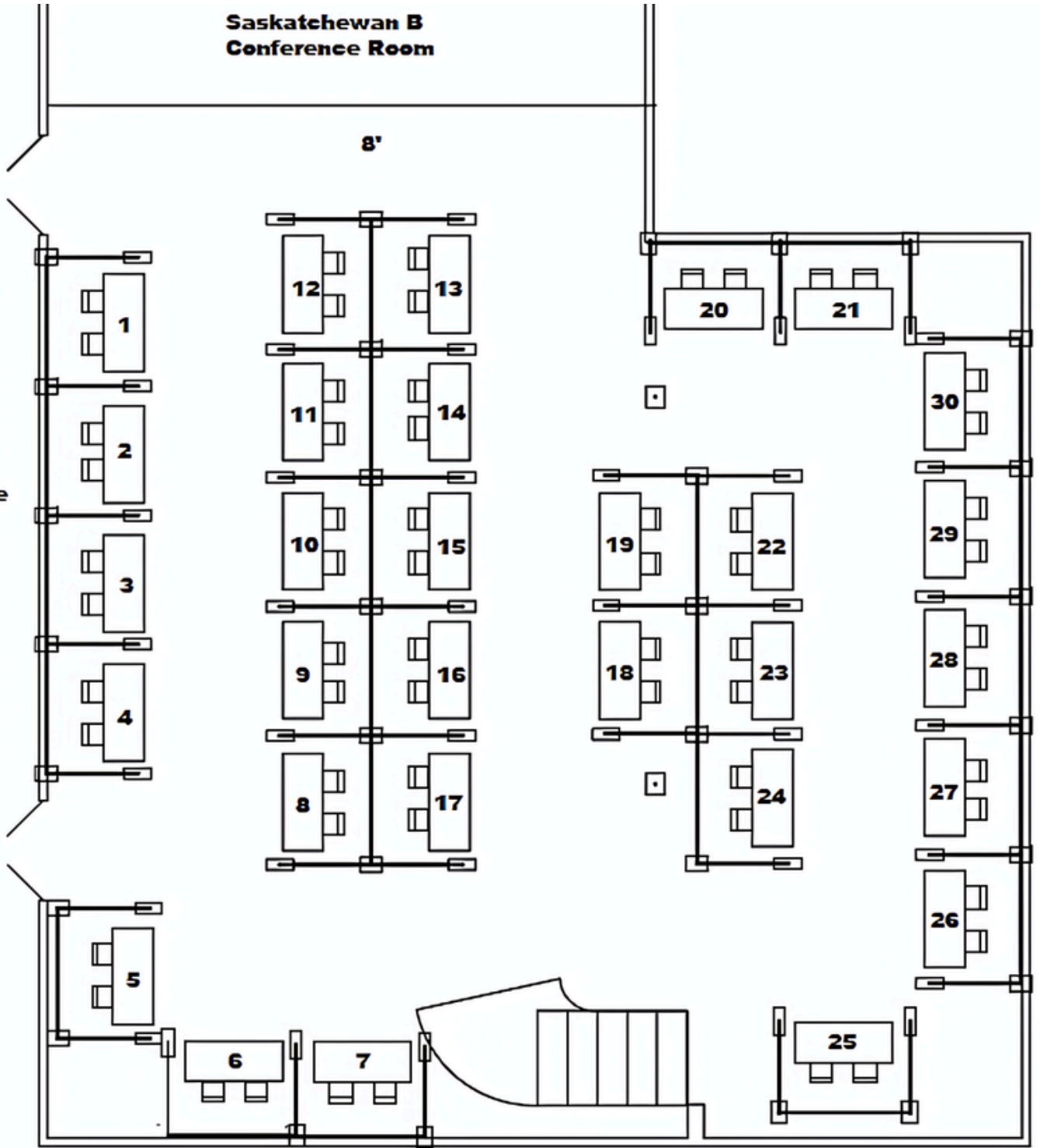
# TRADE SHOW FLOOR MAP

## SASKATCHEWAN C BALLROOM

Saskatchewan B  
Conference Room

8'

Mezzanine



Year

Venue

Attendees

Exhibitors



# SPONSORS



We are incredibly grateful for the generous support of our Sponsors who enable SaskOrganics to host Advancing Organics. Thank you for the work you do for the organic sector in Saskatchewan!

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