



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

ABOUT US

SaskOrganics is a farmer-led membership non-profit organization. We serve all certified organic operations throughout Saskatchewan by advocating for a sustainable and thriving organic community through leadership in research, market development and communications.

2021 was a year of anniversaries for SaskOrganics! It marked the 30th anniversary for SaskOrganics (formerly Saskatchewan Organic Directorate), the 5th Anniversary for Abundance Magazine, and the 20th anniversary for the Organic Agriculture Protection Fund (OAPF). Thank you to all of the organic farmers, processors grain buyers, certification bodies and organic consumers for the work you have done, and the role you have played in the growth of the organic sector in Saskatchewan and beyond. You are appreciated!



SASKATCHEWAN ORGANIC SECTOR 2020-2021



Statistics from 'Quick Facts About Organic In Canada-2020-2021' Canada Organic Trade Association. Visit www.saskorganics.org to download the full report.

A MESSAGE FROM SASKORGANICS PRESIDENT



As we take time to look back on 2021, it's difficult to imagine that we have completed yet another trip around the sun. It may be even more surprising to some of our membership that it has been five years since we met at Calling Lakes to envision a new direction and breathe life into a new organization. We can also boast that we are celebrating our 30th year as a Provincial member-run organization. Congratulations to all!!

In that spirit of gratitude, I must take time to thank just a few individuals. Firstly, many thanks to Marla and Deb for their unwavering devotion and discipline applied to everything that they do on behalf of SaskOrganics and beyond. Together, they are truly the face of our organization.

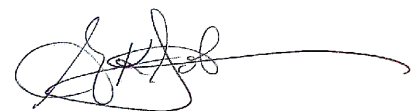
Also many thanks to the Board of Directors, who have shown time and time again their willingness to participate and to contribute to decisions in a respectful and democratic fashion on behalf of our membership. Thanks also to H  l  ne Tremblay-Boyko for her contribution to our board as Secretary and Marion Leniczek for her contribution as Vice-President during their terms of office.

I would also like to thank all of our industry partner members, large and small, for your support throughout the year and the continued relationships as we move forward. Thanks also to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture partners Dunling Wang, Alternative Cropping Specialist and Dianna Emperingham, Executive Director, Crops and Irrigation Unit for their guidance and direction. We're also grateful for the research community and their interest and participation in the advancement of organic agriculture.

A special thanks goes out to Jess Paul and her team for publishing the wonderful Abundance Magazine that is enjoyed by many throughout Saskatchewan and beyond. Jess skillfully facilitated our very important Board strategic planning session in December of 2021.

Last but not least, many thanks to our farmer membership. No question, your support and involvement is at the core of our organizational success.

Sincerely,



GARRY JOHNSON

SaskOrganics President



A MESSAGE FROM SASKORGANICS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2021 was a big anniversary year for SaskOrganics. The organization celebrated our 30th anniversary, and although it has changed names and focus over the years, a common thread has run through its purpose – to support the growth and development of the sector. The Organic Agriculture Protection Fund marked its 20th anniversary, and Abundance magazine celebrated its 5th anniversary. Celebrations are not quite the same online so we might just have to roll those forward to 2022!

Creating opportunities for people to connect and fostering a sense of community in the organic sector in Saskatchewan is at the heart of what we do at SaskOrganics. We do this in a number of ways – through our education program, advocacy work for government policies that support organic farming, and representing the opportunities and challenges of the organic sector in Saskatchewan in national and international forums.

Covid-19 continued to have an impact on the way we operated this past year. It forced all of our events online for another year. The silver lining is we have gained a positive reputation for the quality of our online events and have seen solid attendance. Another highlight for 2021 has to have been selling out the Abundance Box for the second year running!

This past year, the board made the decision that it was time to update our strategic plan which involved undertaking a comprehensive consultation program with our members. We look forward to sharing the results in the summer of 2022.

We continue to be grateful to our members for supporting our work by attending and presenting at webinars, sponsoring our events and advertising in Abundance Magazine, and partnering in our voluntary organic check-off program. It is with your support that we are able to fulfill our mission to cultivate a healthier world for the benefit of all through organic food and agriculture. Last (but certainly not least!) thank you to our board of directors and Deb Tuchelt, Programs Coordinator – we make a great team!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marla Carlson".

MARLA CARLSON
Executive Director



GOVERNANCE

SaskOrganics is governed by the Board of Directors, providing leadership and strategic direction for the organization on behalf of the members.

Meet our Board



Garry Johnson
President



Marion Leniczek
Vice-President



Michele Cruise-Pratchler
Treasurer



Hélène Tremblay-Boyko
Secretary



Amanda Bouchard



Thomas Driedger Enns



Ryan Neilson



Colin MacDonald



Dunling Wang
Government Advisor

Meet our Staff



Marla Carlson
Executive Director



Deb Tuchelt
Programs Coordinator

**For board & staff bios, visit our website About Tab*

SASKORGANICS' COMMITTEES

Governance Committee

Governance & Human Resources Task Force

Chair: Garry Johnson

Members: Michele Cruise-Pratchler, Thomas Driedger Enns

Nominations

Chair: Garry Johnson

Members: Thomas Driedger Enns

Strategic Committees

Awards

Chair: Amanda Bouchard

Members: Marla Carlson, Marion Leniczek, Colin MacDonald, Ryan Neilson, Will Oddie, Dunling Wang

Communications and Promotions

Chair: Amanda Bouchard

Members: Colin MacDonald, H    ne Tremblay-Boyko

Crop Insurance

Chair: Garry Johnson

Members: Greg Ferris, Marion Leniczek, Martin Meinert, Dunling Wang

Education & Research

Chair: Will Oddie

Members: Brenda Frick, Steve Guenther, Greg Ferris, Colin MacDonald, Andrew Pantel, Scott Shiels, Allison Squires, Kyana St Amant, Kim Tomilin, Dunling Wang

Organic Agriculture Protection Fund (OAPF)

Chair: Arnold Taylor,

Members: Doug Bone, Cathy Holtslander, Lisa Mumm, Lucy Sharratt

Organic Integrity

Chair: H    ne Tremblay-Boyko

Members: Jennifer Bromm, Art Hesje, Allison Squires

All SaskOrganics members are eligible to serve on our committees. If you are interested in joining a committee please get in touch! admin@saskorganic.com



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

SaskOrganics' strategic plan 2018–2023 identified the overarching priority of building capacity, in particular a stable financial foundation, in order to deliver the following six strategic priorities:

- Promote Research that Reflects Producers Needs
- Extension Services & Knowledge Transfer
- Support New and Transitioning Farmers
- Maintain Organic Integrity
- Value Added Processing
- Understand & Expand Markets

The strategic priorities provide a framework for SaskOrganics' work, advocacy, education program and communications. Here are the 2021 highlights:

Research that Reflects Producers' Needs

Agriculture Development Fund (ADF)

SaskOrganics was an industry partner in the 2021 funding round for the ADF. Members of our Education and Research committee formed a sub-committee to evaluate the letters of intent (LOI) to determine which projects would benefit organic farmers.

In 2021, the ADF received 294 LOIs. Of the 294 LOIs, the sub-committee asked to review 24. Of the 24 reviewed, SaskOrganics wrote letters of support for 9. 55 projects were funded in total – 3 of which were projects that SaskOrganics wrote letters of support for.

ADOPT Grant

SaskOrganics has partnered with the Sask Forage Seed Development Commission on an Intermediate Wheat Grass (IWG) ADOPT project. It is a two-year project to evaluate the potential of Intermediate Wheat Grass (*Thinopyrum intermedium*) for food and feed when grown in northeast Saskatchewan under organic and conventional cropping systems. Due to the drought conditions in 2021 the project has been extended for another year (2023).

Organic Science Cluster 4

The Organic Science Cluster 4 LOI process required researchers to identify “Collaborating Extension Specialists or Industry Professionals”. SaskOrganics was approached and agreed to be included in this capacity for five LOIs. If funded, the research would make a significant contribution to organic agronomy.

AAFC – Agriculture Climate Solutions Living Labs Initiative Application

SaskOrganics provided a letter of support for the Bridge to Land Water Sky proposal. The project has a number of goals including improving land management strategies to mitigate GHG emissions, promote carbon sequestration, increase food security and food sovereignty in indigenous and non-indigenous communities, and protect biodiversity.



Extension Services & Knowledge Transfer

Advancing Organics Online Conference & Trade Show

Successful first online conference and trade show – 8 sessions, 11 presenters, over 40 virtual exhibitors and 180 registrants.

Webinars

Presenters: 36, Attendees: 383

- Cover Cropping on the Prairies
- Transition to Solar Energy
- Organic Grain Markets Webinar-Spring
- Shelterbelts & Perennial Vegetation
- Green Manures-Findings from Eastern & Western Canada
- Organic Grain Markets Webinar-Fall
- Grain Storage & Cleaning

Six On-Farm Research & Organic Agronomy Producer Meetings (Online)

Support New & Transitioning Farmers

SaskOrganics staff continue to provide transition and organic production resources to farmers who get in touch that are interested in learning more about going organic.

In 2021, we started to develop a video series, modelled after our in-person transition to organic workshops. The online course will provide information that will help farmers navigate transitioning to organic agriculture. The topics will include an overview of the Canada Organic Standard, annual requirements & record keeping, agronomic considerations, marketing, certification, and producer testimonials. These resources will be available free of charge on our YouTube channel in mid-2022.

Maintain Organic Integrity

In 2021, SaskOrganics and the OAPF committee were actively engaged in two important consultations by Health Canada and the CFIA regarding proposed changes to regulatory guidance for gene edited food and seeds. If approved, the proposed guidance would remove government oversight of many new genetically modified organisms (GMOs) produced through the new genetic engineering techniques of genome editing (also called gene editing) that contain no foreign DNA. (Crops produced using gene editing are prohibited under the Canada Organic Standard). If the proposed changes are implemented, unregulated GMOs would be on the market without government approval and no mandatory notification to government, farmers, or the public. We worked with CBAN and other stakeholders to bring this issue to the attention of producers and the public to help ensure the concerns of the organic sector were brought to the attention of Health Canada and the CFIA.

SaskOrganics was also actively engaged in a consultation by Health Canada: Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2021-10, Glyphosate. We collaborated with COTA, Safe Food Matters and Prevent Cancer Now to host a webinar to inform and educate citizens and encourage submissions to the consultation. After extending the consultation period due to the "level of interest and number of comments received to date, in addition to delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic", the Government of Canada announced they would pause the decision on Glyphosate as it strengthens the capacity and transparency of the review process for pesticides. They also committed to consulting on specific provisions of the Pest Control Products Act (2002) to increase transparency, and committed \$50 million over three years to strengthen regulatory oversight and to support work accelerating the research, development and adoption of alternative pest management solutions.

Value-Added Processing

SaskOrganics curated our second annual Abundance Box in 2021. We were pleased to feature and promote 10 great local companies that are processing food and non-food items using organic ingredients. We increased the number of boxes to 250, up from 146 in 2020. We were absolutely thrilled with the support and sold out for another year! A big thank you to everyone that purchased a box (or boxes) for yourself or someone you know, to the companies that purchased boxes to share with staff and clients, and to all our contributing companies. This year's boxes travelled not only to locations in Saskatchewan, but as far as Texas, Salt Spring Island, Nova Scotia and everywhere in between! The Abundance Box is proving to be an effective vehicle to highlight and promote value-added processors in the province, and promote the organic sector in Saskatchewan locally and beyond.

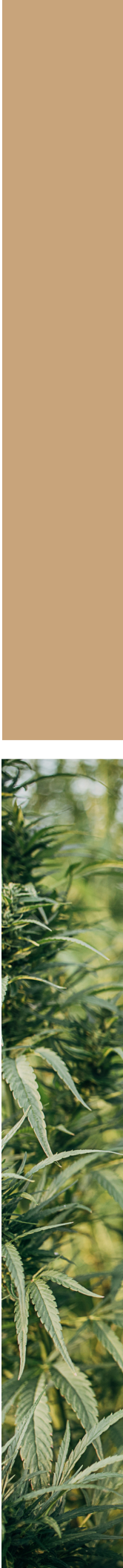


Understand and Expand Markets

In 2021, SaskOrganics held an Organic Grain Markets Webinar in Spring and Fall. Due to their popularity and value, they have become a regular part of our education program. They continue to be the most well attended webinars. In the Fall webinar, 13 grain buyers participated and there were over 110 attendees.

SaskOrganics made presentations promoting the organic sector in Saskatchewan at two STEP Virtual Conferences – Healthy Ingredients Showcase & the 9th Annual Saskatchewan Asia Conference. We also had a booth at the Canada Farm Show Online (Farm Progress Show).

SaskOrganics collaborated with the Canada Organic Trade Association to publish the 2022 State of Organics Report that documents how the federal, provincial and territorial governments are supporting the growth and development of the organic sector.



COMMUNICATIONS

Abundance Magazine

In 2021, Abundance Magazine celebrated its fifth anniversary! It has been, and continues to be, a pleasure to put together each issue featuring the abundance of good stories about the organic sector in Saskatchewan! Each issue has a number of regular features – *Innovate* (featuring a Saskatchewan certified organic producer or processor), *Nourish* (a farm-to-table theme that features Saskatchewan chefs who are doing just that, with a focus on organic & local ingredients), *Sustain* (best agronomic practices), upcoming industry events and more. The magazine is direct-mailed to over 1200 contacts around the province (and beyond!), and is made possible by the support of our advertisers and the talented team at Blossom Communications.



Monthly Digital Newsletter & Individual Campaigns

Our monthly digital newsletter is published on the third Friday of each month, and is our most effective communication tool to promote events, the latest news relevant to the sector, important updates, and opportunities to participate in consultations and research projects. In between monthly newsletters, we send out individual campaigns as reminders for upcoming events, items that require actions with time sensitive deadlines, etc. We do our best to strike a balance between getting important news and information to our members and not contributing to 'in-box overload'! Our classified ads took off in 2021, with at least one new classified ad in each month's newsletter.

Audience: 1200 contacts. 52% of our audience are highly engaged and regularly open emails.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Education Scholarship

SaskOrganics' Education Scholarship is awarded annually to an individual pursuing post-secondary education in an agriculture related field of study. The scholarship (\$1000) is made possible through a generous donation from the Northwest Saskatchewan Organic Producer Group to provide a 'hand up' to future generations to pursue their passion to grow and develop the organic sector.



NICOLE RINDISBACHER

Education Scholarship Award Recipient 2021

The SaskOrganics Education Scholarship is awarded annually to an individual pursuing post-secondary education in an agriculture related field of study. Thank you to North West Saskatchewan Organic Producer Group for their donation that established the scholarship fund. This year, SaskOrganics is proud to present this \$1,000 scholarship to Nicole Rindisbacher who is attending Dalhousie University and studying sustainability.

Growing up on an organic farm, Nicole became passionate about sustainability while living in Europe and meeting people who had never seen a stalk of wheat, never mind understand where their food comes from or the effects of non-organic farming on our planet. This experience sparked a passion in her to return to Saskatchewan and study sustainability. Congratulations Nicole!

Outstanding Organic Farmer Award

SaskOrganics' Outstanding Organic Farmer Award is awarded annually to an organic farmer who is currently making an outstanding contribution to the organic sector. The catalyst for the award was the generous donation from the Northwest Saskatchewan Organic Producer Group to recognize and promote innovation in the organic sector.



ALLISON SQUIRES & CODY STRAZA

Upland Organics

Outstanding Organic Farmer Award Recipient 2021

An outstanding farmer in our eyes is one who is making an outstanding contribution to the organic sector here in Saskatchewan. Thank you to North West Saskatchewan Organic Producer Group for providing the inspiration to establish an award recognizing and promoting innovation in the organic sector. SaskOrganics is proud to present this award to Cody Straza and Allison Squires of Upland Organics.

Cody and Allison farm near Wood Mountain, Saskatchewan. Upland Organics uses a drone to monitor weed infestations and regularly tests to monitor any changes in their soils, with the primary focus on improving the health and diversity of the soil biology. As a result of the all-too-familiar challenge of marketing grains and losing substantial dockage with minimal compensation, they built a grain cleaning operation that has served them and other local organic growers meet export standards, creating an opportunity to deal directly with international buyers. Both Cody and Allison are active volunteers in their local community and serve on a number of provincial, national and international boards. They are advocates for the need to advance agronomic practices within organic production and supportive of the SaskOrganics' work in advancing that goal. Congratulations Cody and Allison!

SASKORGANICS REPRESENTATION

SaskOrganics has representation on the Organic Federation of Canada (OFC) and the Prairie Organic Development Fund (PODF) to ensure the views and needs of the organic sector in Saskatchewan are included in national and regional discussions.

Organic Federation of Canada (OFC)

The OFC brings together the key players in Canada's organic industry to ensure excellent standards and regulations, and scientific research that stimulates the growth of Canada's organic sector, which is good for the environment, the consumer, family farms and rural communities.



SaskOrganics Representative: Jim Robbins (OFC President)

Prairie Organic Development Fund (PODF)

PODF is an innovative investment platform established to build resilience in the organic sector by investing in prairie organic associations (Capacity Fund) and high impact projects like the Canadian Organic Ingredient Strategy and the Prairie Organic Grain Initiative.



SaskOrganics Representatives: Jim Robbins (President/Director), Garry Johnson (Vice-President/Director), Ryan Neilson (Member)

SASKORGANICS SUPPORTS

- Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) – Associate Member
- Canada Organic Trade Association (COTA) – Associate Member
- Farmers for Climate Solutions (FCS) – Member
- Herb, Spice & Specialty Ag Association (HSSA) – Business Member
- Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership (STEP) – Member

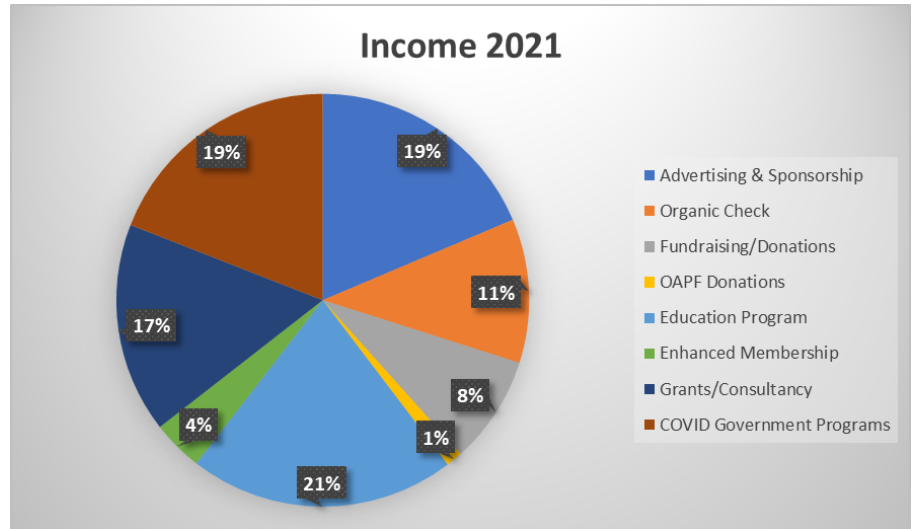


FINANCE REPORT

Income

- Advertising & Sponsorship \$51,274.00
- Organic Check-off \$31,041.00
- Fundraising/Donations \$23,280.00
- OAPF Donations \$3,553.00
- Education Program \$57,327.00
- Enhanced Membership \$10,952.00
- Grants/Consultancy \$45,330.00
- COVID Government Programs \$52,462.00

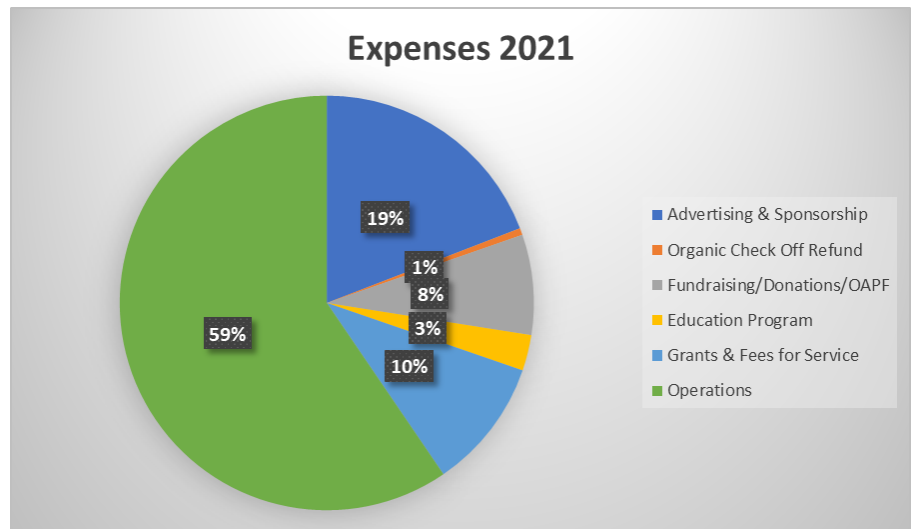
TOTAL INCOME: \$275,219.00



Expenses

- Advertising & Sponsorship \$42,469.00
- Organic Check-off refund \$1,191.00
- Fundraising/Donations \$13,795.00
- OAPF \$3,553.00
- Education Program \$5,199.00
- Scholarship \$1000.00
- Grants & Fees for Service \$22,625.00
- Operations \$132,107.00

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$221,939.00



NET INCOME: \$53,280.00



SPONSORS & ADVERTISERS

SaskOrganics couldn't do what we do without the continued support of our sponsors and advertisers. Whether advertising in Abundance Magazine, digital newsletter, or sponsoring our events, these supporters allow us to continue producing our publications and annual events. We gratefully acknowledge the support of our sponsors and advertisers in 2021.

Over \$9000

Grain Millers

Over \$7000

Pro-Cert Organic Systems Ltd.

Over \$4000

Sunrise Foods International

\$3000-\$4000

F.W. Cobs Company
Richardson International
O&T Farms

\$2000-\$2999

TCO Cert
Vivigro Sustainable Solutions Ltd.
Growers International Organic Sales Inc.
Roquette Canada Ltd.
PHS Organics
Grassroots Organic Dirt Supplements Co

\$1500-\$1999

NutraSun Foods Ltd
Shafer Commodities Inc.
RW Organic Ltd.
Birch Rose Acres Ltd

\$1000-\$1499

ECOCERT Canada
Back To Your Roots Soil Solutions
Scoular Canada Ltd
AgriSea BioTech
K. Jarrett Real Estate P.C. Inc.
Tradex
Alltech Crop Science
Duck Foot Parts Inc.
GrainCorp Canada
Seaboard Special Crops
TCO Cert Chapter 4

\$500 - \$999

Biofert Manufacturing Inc.
XiteBio Technologies Inc.
Manitoba Harvest/Fresh Hemp Foods
KBI Seed Processing
Avena Foods
Blossom Communications
CCGA (6P Marketing)
Cropland Solutions Inc.
CSI/Seeds Canada
EarthRenew Inc.
SureSource Commodities LLC
OACC

Under \$500

OCIA International Canada
Organic Connections Inc.
Westaqua Commodity Group Ltd.
Grain St Laurent
Canadian Agronomics
Frontlink
Humaterra Regen Ag Inc.
MGM Seed & Grain Ltd.
XPT Grain
Greve Farms

Under \$200

Aliments Breton Inc.
Mumms Sprouting Seeds
Organics Canada
Weed Surfer
Interlake Forage Seeds Ltd.
Lily & Rose Seed Processors
Denis Brisebois
Chaplin Grain
Steve Guenther



ORGANIC CHECK-OFF PARTNERS

The voluntary Organic Check-off was introduced in 2019 and has been an important effort in helping build a solid financial foundation for SaskOrganics. Funds collected by Grain Buyers continue to be used to implement our strategic priorities, and support efforts that develop and enhance the organic sector in Saskatchewan.

SaskOrganics is grateful for the participating companies in this important effort!

- Crestview Organic Farms
- Grain Millers Canada
- Mumm's Sprouting Seeds
- O&T Farms
- PHS Organics
- RW Organic
- Stonehenge Global Seeds Inc.
- Sunrise Foods International
- Tradex Commodity Group

ENHANCED MEMBERS

All certified organic operations in Saskatchewan are automatically basic members of SaskOrganics. Producers, businesses and non-profits can purchase enhanced memberships to financially support SaskOrganics and receive discounts on our events, advertising and sponsorship.

SaskOrganics is grateful for the enhanced members of 2021:

Organic Standard Producer Members:

Kevin Beach & Donna Bryck-Beach, Blue Jay Organics, DC Lipp Farms Inc., Linden Valley Ranch, Maida Vale Farms Ltd., Trawin Farms Ltd., Wilwynn Farm Ltd.

Organic Premium Producer Members:

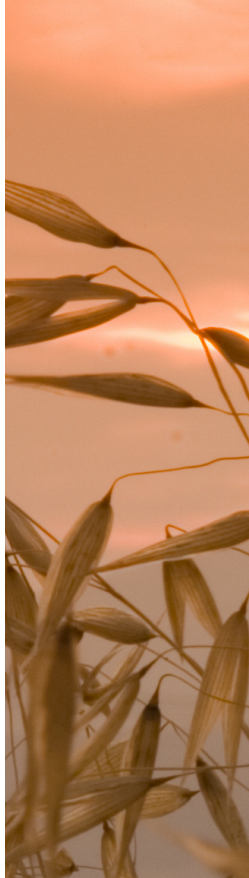
Keewatin Farm, Pusch Bros. Organic Farm, Upland Organics

Business Members:

Grain Millers Canada, Pro-Cert Organic Systems Ltd., RW Organic, Seaboard Special Crops, Sunrise Foods International, TCO Chapter 4, Vivigro Sustainable Solutions

Associate Members:

Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), Herb, Spice & Specialty Ag Association (HSSA), Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership (STEP)





311-845 Broad Street
Regina, SK
S4R 8G9

e: admin@saskorganic.com

tel: 306-535-3456



@SaskOrganics



@SaskOrganics



@saskorganics