



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



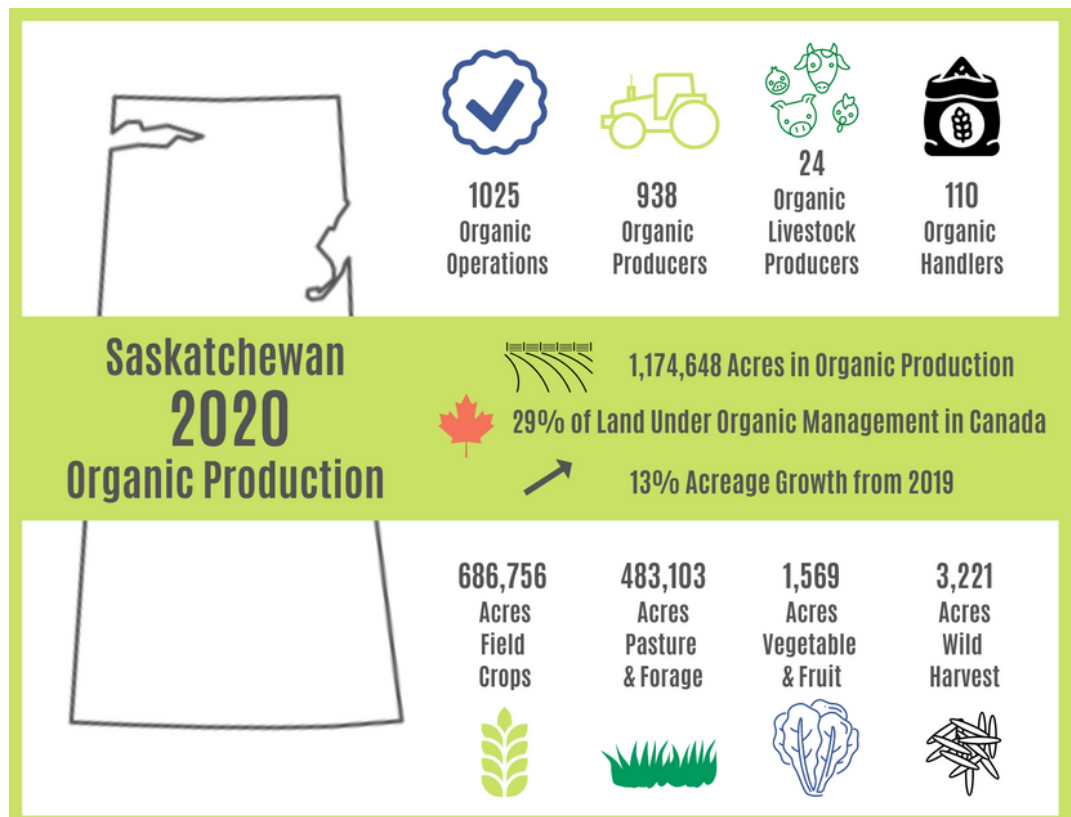
ABOUT US

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.

We continue to be grateful for 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



I am sure 2022 will be remembered as the year we started to figure out how to meet in person again – the good, the bad and the ugly! We are looking forward to hosting our first in-person Advancing Organics & AGM since 2019 in March 2023 in Regina.

In the spirit of gratitude, I would like to take the time to thank just a few individuals. Firstly, many thanks to Marla Carlson and Deb Tuchelt for their unwavering dedication and effort they apply to everything 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. In particular, I would like to thank board members who will be stepping off the board after the AGM in 2023:

- Amanda Bouchard for her contribution as Vice President and Chair of the Awards Committee and Communications & Promotions Committee;
- Ryan Nielson for his contribution to the Awards Committee and as one of our representatives on the Prairie Organic Development Fund board; and
- Thomas Driedger-Enns for his contribution to the Governance & Human Resources Task force.

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. In particular, I would like to recognize SaskWheat for their investment in research that benefits organic producers, knowledge transfer and the development of agronomic tools.

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



GARRY JOHNSON
SaskOrganics President



A MESSAGE FROM SASKORGANICS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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 in 2022. Most of our education program, including Advancing Organics, continued to be held online. We did branch out a bit in the summer and for the first time in three years, we started hosting in person events!

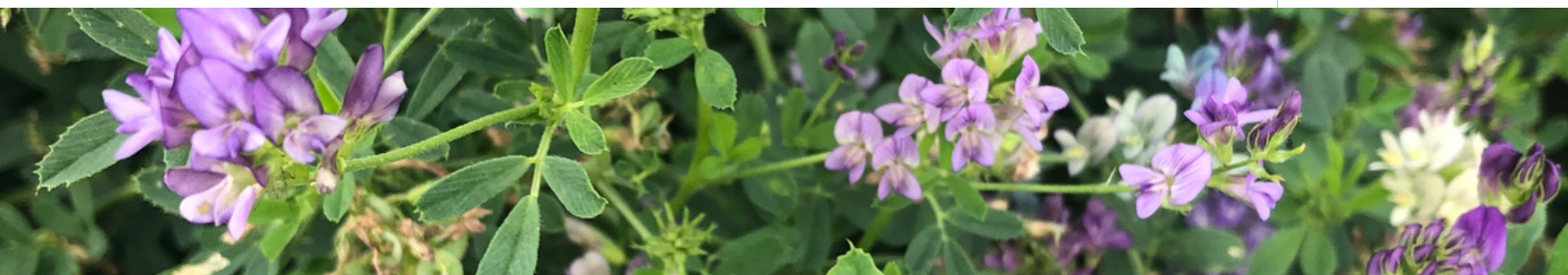
We started small (and outdoors) with two field days. Our co-hosts, Moose Creek Organic Farm (Ian and Joanne Cushon) and the AAFC Swift Current Research and Development Centre (Dr. Myriam Fernandez) were generous with their knowledge and experience and we are grateful for their willingness to open up their farms and research plots to the organic community. Both events were great reminders of how wonderful it is to gather together and learn together.

In 2022, the organization engaged in an extensive consultation process with our members, sponsors and the board of directors. SaskOrganics strategic priorities were reviewed and refreshed. One of the outcomes from the review process was a review of the bylaws to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and best reflect how the organization operates. As a result of this process, new bylaws will be presented at the annual general meeting in March 2023.

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.

Our Board



Garry Johnson
President



Amanda Bouchard
Vice-President



Michele Cruise-Pratchler
Treasurer



Will Oddie
Secretary



Donna Bryck-Beach



Thomas Driedger Enns



Ryan Neilson



Colin MacDonald



Stacey Wiebe



Dunling Wang
Government Advisor

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: Colin MacDonald, Will Oddie

Strategic Committees

Awards

Chair: Amanda Bouchard

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

Communications and Promotions

Chair: Amanda Bouchard

Members: Colin MacDonald

Crop Insurance

Chair: Garry Johnson

Members: Greg Ferris, 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, Garry Johnson, Lisa Mumm

Organic Integrity

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

Blossom Communications was hired to work with SaskOrganics' staff, board of directors, and other external stakeholders between late August 2021 and January 2022 to develop a new Strategic Plan to guide the organization through to 2024. During this time Blossom:

- Conducted an in-depth meeting with the SaskOrganics staff to evaluate its human resources.
- Developed a questionnaire for the staff on the current state of the organization
- Conducted a series of one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders in Saskatchewan's organic industry.
- Contributed to the development of the 2021 Membership Survey.
- Conducted a series of focus groups and follow-up interviews with organic producers and industry representatives.
- Facilitated a full-day strategic planning session with the SaskOrganics board of directors and staff.
- Hosted follow-up meetings with the board of directors and the staff to determine priorities for the next three years.

While a lot has changed for the organization since its last strategic plan in 2018, one key issue continues to be identified as a key priority for all stakeholders: building a strong financial foundation so that the organization can continue to build capacity to best serve its members and the organic sector.

Through the process, the SaskOrganics board of directors and staff established a list of strategic objectives, which were then organized into seven key priority areas. In 2022, SaskOrganics Staff and Board began work on these strategic priorities. Here are some of the highlights.

1 Finances & Human Resources

Building on relationships and increase collaboration with key stakeholders to advance SaskOrganics' mission is key to developing a resilient and successful organic sector in Saskatchewan.

To build a more stable financial foundation, SaskOrganics' developed a voluntary Organic Check-Off program. We are grateful for participating companies.



SaskOrganics is always looking to expand the reach of the program. If your company is interested in participating we encourage you to get in touch. admin@saskorganic.com

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2 Knowledge Transfer

In 2022, our events had 695 attendees, 82 speakers, and 52 sponsors. Thank you for supporting our Education Program!

- Advancing Organics Online Conference & Tradeshow
- Hosted 4 webinars with topics ranging from Cost of Production for Organic Crops, Optimizing the Integration of Livestock, and two Organic Grain Markets webinars.
- Co-Hosted 2 Online Mini-Conferences – Growing Organic Vegetables on the Prairies and Innovative Strategies for Organic and Regenerative Livestock Production.
- Co-Hosted 2 Field Days: At Moose Creek Organic Farm in Oxbow, and at the Swift Current Research & Development Centre.
- Online Organic Agronomy Producer Meetings – in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture we hosted 5 Organic Agronomy Producer meetings providing a forum for organic producers to have their agronomy questions answered by the Ministry's Alternative Cropping Specialist. and an opportunity for peer-to-peer learning/networking.
- Organic Livestock Producer Group hosted a buyer meeting to learn more about the organic Canadian beef market

3 Research

Agriculture Development Fund (ADF)

For the second year, SaskOrganics participated as an Industry Partner in the Ministry of Agriculture's Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) research project review process, ensuring the research needs of organic farmers were represented in the funding decision making process and providing 11 letters of support for research priorities identified by members in the Organic Research Priorities Report (2019). The ADF provides project funding of up to \$15 million per year to researchers in public and private research and development organizations selected on the basis of their research's potential to create growth opportunities or enhance the competitiveness of the provinces' agricultural industry.

We reviewed 29 LOI's, of which we requested to see 14 full proposals. We wrote letters of support for 11 projects that would be of interest or value to organic farmers. Seven (7) of the eleven (11) full proposals we supported received ADF funding totalling \$799,907.

Organic Science Cluster 4

SaskOrganics supported 5 researchers submitting research project proposals to the Organic Science Cluster 4 by committing to provide in kind extension support for the research outcomes.

Our Education Program

The basis of our education program is to give researchers and producers a platform to share the data and information that is of value and interest to organic producers and the needs of their operations.



4 Market Development

In 2022, SaskOrganics held an Organic Grain Markets Webinar in Spring and Fall. They continue to be the most well attended webinars, providing producers an opportunity to hear the latest organic prices and contract information from a panel of buyers, and buyers the opportunity to expand their reach and potentially make new contacts or sales.

SaskOrganics curated our third annual Abundance Box in 2022. This year we had an 'ingredients' theme, telling both local value-added company stories as well as stories of the journey some organic Saskatchewan-grown ingredients make, near to far. We were pleased to feature and promote 8 great companies, and were thrilled with the support of the box! 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 generous contributing companies. The Abundance Boxes once again travelled within Saskatchewan, across Canada, and to locations around the United States, and continue to be an effective vehicle to highlight and promote value-added processors in the province, and promote the organic sector locally and beyond.

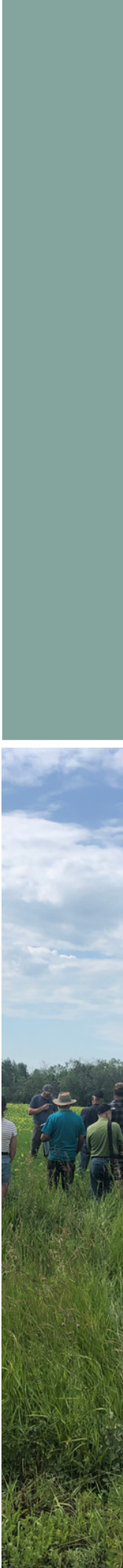


5 Advocacy

In 2022, the majority of our advocacy efforts were focused on the Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) proposed new guidance to Part V of the Seed Act. If published, the federal government will relinquish their regulatory authority over some seed produced using gene editing techniques, abandon its responsibility for environmental safety assessments and allow new GM seeds on the market without a mandatory registry or notification to farmers or the public. Without a mandatory registry you may not know what seeds you are buying, be able to meet the Canada Organic Regime requirement to ensure seed is non-GM, or implement the risk mitigation measures you need to protect your crops from GM contamination.

Along with our organic sector colleagues, CBAN and other NGO allies we have been in meetings, strategizing, writing letters, collaborating on calls to action, and keeping our members informed and engaged. The goal of this work – communicating to the CFIA and Agriculture & Agri Food Canada the impact the proposed new CFIA guidance could have on the organic sector if published, and demanding they provide a solution that works for organic farmers. SaskOrganics and the Organic Agriculture Protection Fund committee will continue to advocate for a mandatory registry of all GMO seeds so that the Canadian Organic sector and its \$9 billion market can continue to exist and thrive.

SaskOrganics also participated in the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture's engagement sessions on the development of the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership, representing the opportunities and challenges in the organic sector to inform the development of the 5-year funding framework for agriculture programs in Saskatchewan.



6 Communications

The key communications priorities are to increase clarity of messaging for more cohesive communication, enhanced relationship with members, and improved awareness across all audiences.

In 2022 SaskOrganics staff began the process of collaborating with certifiers to include information about SaskOrganics with their annual renewal paperwork and with the onboarding of new clients, starting in 2023. This will be key in increasing awareness of SaskOrganics and what we do with existing and new organic farmers.

We continue to add contacts to our mailing lists for both Abundance Magazine and Digital Newsletter.

Abundance Magazine

2022 was Abundance Magazine's sixth year of publication! 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 1100 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. Our classified ads continue to be an effective and economical form of advertising for producers and companies alike.

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

7 Relationships

Building on existing as well as fostering new relationships is a key component of the work we do to forward the organic sector in Saskatchewan.

SaskOrganics continues to build on our relationship with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture. A special thanks to the support of Dunling Wang, Alternative Cropping Specialist and Dianna Emperingham, Executive Director, Crops and Irrigation Unit.

SaskOrganics is pleased to be a member of the following organizations:

- Canada Organic Trade Association (COTA)
- Farmers for Climate Solutions (FCS)
- Herb, Spice & Specialty Ag Association (HSSA)
- Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership (STEP)

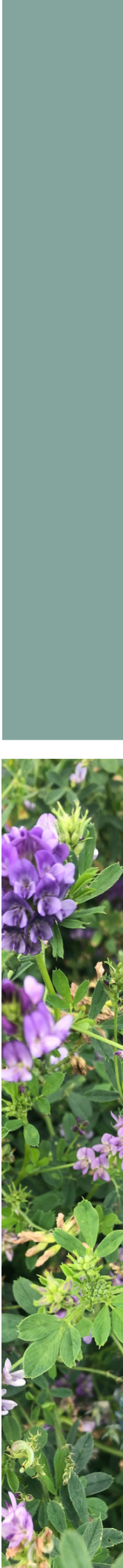


Support New & Transitioning Producers

Supporting new and transitioning producers is a key strategy priority for SaskOrganics. Staff provide resources to farmers who get in touch that are interested in learning more about going organic.

In 2022 we posted a video series to YouTube, modelled after our in-person transition to organic workshops. The videos provide information that help farmers navigate transitioning to organic production. We intend to build on the content by adding more videos on different topics over time.

SaskOrganics exhibited at Canada's Farm Show in June 2022. Having a booth at the show provides us with the opportunity to connect with farmers interested in transitioning to organic and connect with our members.



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.



CHRISTA WOUDWIJK

Education Scholarship Award Recipient 2022

Christa Woudwijk has been named the recipient of the 2022 SaskOrganics Education Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to an individual pursuing post-secondary education in an agriculture related field of study. Christa grew up on an farm near Outlook, SK that produced organic (Prairie Pride Organics) and conventional potatoes. From a young age Christa understood that organic food was better for her and for the planet. Christa plans to make an impact in

animal farming by pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Animal Bioscience and encouraging the adoption of organic production methods and educating producers on the benefits of organic farming.

Congratulations Christa and best of luck in your future endeavors!

This scholarship has been made possible through a generous donation from the North West Saskatchewan Organic Producer Group (NWSOPG) to provide a 'hand up' to future generations to pursue their passion for organics

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.



LARRY MARSHALL

Outstanding Organic Farmer Award Recipient 2022

Larry Marshall farms with his family near Shellbrook, SK. He was inspired to farm organically because of the ethics, the challenges and knowing that he is a part of a movement feeding the world sustainably without chemicals or synthetic fertilizers. Larry had the good fortune to be a part of agricultural exchanges in China, Costa Rica, Cuba, and Zimbabwe. He drew inspiration from farmers working with micro-organisms, compost, fermentation, and carbon, and could see how the small-scale methods could be incorporated into his operation at home. Innovation has always been at the heart of his production practice.

Larry has been growing hemp for the past 20 years and is known for being generous with his time and knowledge, both as a keynote speaker and educator to other farmers. Larry has also been instrumental in the development of the organic hemp industry, serving as a director of the Canadian Hemp Trade Alliance and a member of their research committee.

Larry said 'one of the great challenges of organic farming is the necessity to be constantly experimenting, changing and adapting farming methods'. Looking to the future he is interested in experimenting with dormant-seeding hemp in the fall to save valuable spring moisture and get the crop off to an early start to out-compete the weeds. Larry is also looking forward to the expanded use of small autonomous electric tractors that would be powered from the solar bank he has installed on the farm that is currently producing twice as much electricity as they are consuming.

The SaskOrganics outstanding farmer award is awarded annually to an organic farmer who is making outstanding contributions and innovations to the organic sector.

Congratulations, Larry! Thank you for your dedication to and advocacy for the organic sector in Saskatchewan and across Canada.

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 PHOTO CONTEST WINNER 2022

Laura Hegel, Schraefel Farm, Kerrobert SK

Photo Title: Unloading at Night: Into the bin with the moon as company

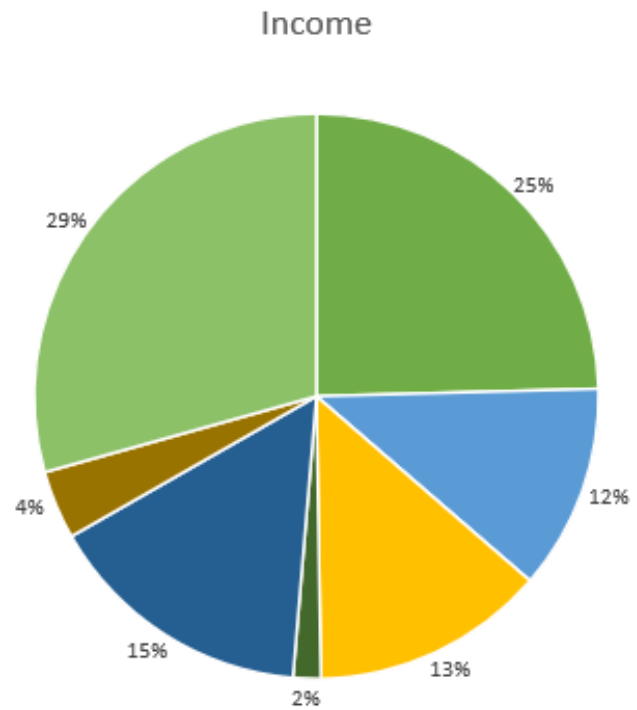


FINANCE REPORT

Income

- Advertising & Sponsorship \$52,222
- Organic Check-off \$24,964
- Fundraising/Donations \$28,519
- OAPF Donations \$3,358
- Education Program \$32,746
- Enhanced Membership \$8,338
- Grants/Fees for Service \$62,321

TOTAL INCOME: \$212,468

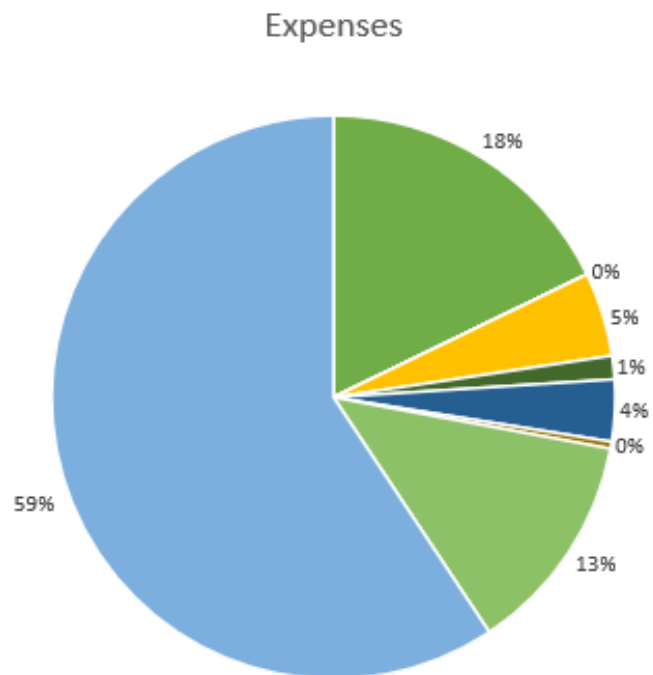


■ Advertising & Sponsorship ■ Organic Check-off ■ Fundraising/Donations ■ OAPF Donations
■ Education Program ■ Enhanced Membership ■ Grants/Fees for Service

Expenses

- Advertising & Sponsorship \$44,554
- Organic Check-off refund \$0
- Fundraising/Donations \$12,062
- OAPF \$3,358
- Education Program \$8,846
- Scholarship \$1000
- Grants & Fees for Service \$31,883
- Operations \$148,376

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$250,079



■ Advertising & Sponsorship ■ Organic Check-off ■ Fundraising/Donations ■ OAPF
■ Education Program ■ Scholarship ■ Grants & Fees for Service ■ Operations

NET INCOME: \$ -37,611



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 2022.

Over \$9000

Grain Millers

Over \$3000

Oleet Processing Ltd.
Prairie Heritage Seeds
Pro-Cert Organic Systems Ltd.
Roquette Canada Ltd.
TCO Cert

Over \$1500

6P Marketing
Back to Your Roots Soil Solutions
Grassroots Organic Dirt Supplements
KBI Seed Processing
MNP LLP
Shafer Commodities

Over \$500

Avena Foods Limited
Biofert Manufacturing Inc.
CSI/Seeds Canada
Manitoba Organic Alliance
Mumm's Sprouting
Sam Mysko
New Century Produce Inc.
OCIA Canada
Replenish Nutrients Ltd.
RW Organic Ltd.

Over \$4000

F.W. Cobs Company Inc
Richardson International Ltd.
Sunrise Foods International Inc.

Over \$2000

Birch Rose Acres Ltd.
GrainCorp Canada
Growers International Organic Sales Inc.
Manitoba Harvest/Fresh Hemp Foods
NutraSun Foods Ltd.
Organic Connections
Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)

Over \$1000

CanMar Foods Ltd.
Ecocert Canada
Fedoruk Seeds
Humaterra Regen Ag Inc.
K. Jarrett Real Estate P.C. Inc
Organic Alberta
Scoular Canada Ltd.
Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership

Under \$500

A & L Canada Laboratories Ltd.
Bioriginal Food & Science Corp
HPS Food & Ingredients Inc.
Johnny's Selected Seeds
MGM Seed & Grain
Allan Morris
Organic Agriculture Center of Canada
Southern Irrigation
Terralink Horticulture
Tradex
West Coast Seeds



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 2022:

Organic Standard Producer Members:

2B Farms, Blue Jay Organics, D.C. Lipp Farms Inc., Linden Valley Ranch, Maida Vale Farms Ltd., Northwest 7 Ranch Inc., Tom Jen Holdings, Wilwynn Farm Ltd.

Organic Premium Producer Members:

Keewatin Farm, Pusch Bros. Organic Farm, Upland Organics, Wecker Farms Ltd.

Business Members:

Ecocert Canada, Grain Millers Canada Inc., Pro-Cert Organic Systems Ltd., Sunrise Foods International, TCO Chapter 4, Vivigro Sustainable Solutions

Associate Members:

Herb, Spice & Specialty Ag Association (HSSA), Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership (STEP)



Become a
SaskOrganics Sustainer

Make a Donation
www.saskorganics.org/donating

Enhance your Membership

Enhanced Producer Membership Benefits	Enhanced Corporate Membership Benefits
• Free Classified Ads • Free Webinars • Discounts on Event Registrations • Discounts on Resources & Merchandise • Promotion on Website	• Advertising & Sponsorship Credit • Free Display Ads in Digital Newsletter • Free Classified Ads • Discounts on Event Registrations • Subscription to Abundance Magazine • Promotion on Website & Other Media

\$250 or \$500 + GST \$1000 + GST

www.saskorganics.org/membership



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