



ORGANIC FARMING RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Fostering the improvement and widespread adoption of organic farming.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Organic Agriculture Soil Health Symposium
Crop, Soil, Agronomy Societies Meeting, Special Session
October, 2017
Tampa, Florida

The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) in collaboration with the University of Florida-IFAS and the Florida Organic Growers & Consumers Association invites submissions to the Organic Agriculture Soil Health Symposium (OASHS) for proposed research, education, and extension papers and posters. The Symposium will take place during the Annual Tri-Societies Conference. The symposium invites researchers, extension, and educators from all disciplines related to organic farming and food systems, and other systems of sustainable agriculture that employ techniques compatible with organic standards.

The focus and priority for this symposium will be Soil Health and Soil Management

Topic tracks of interest include:

- Agroecology and ecosystem services provided by organic farming systems.
- Soil health, quality and nutrient cycling.
- Biological and cultural practices to manage and improve soil health.
- Soil health management for transition to organic production systems.
- Innovative educational approaches to teach organic farming practices.
- Appropriate methods and practices for systems and on-farm research related to soil health.
- The connection between different tillage practices and the loss of soil carbon.
- The effects of cover crops, compost, and diverse rotations on fertility rates.
- Strategies for building soil organic matter.
- The needs of soil microbes and their role in crop health and disease and weed suppression.
- Insect and disease management interactions with soil biology, including nematode control.
- The best ways to source effective and affordable soil amendments.
- Soil health in urban environments.
- How economic or racial disparities influence soil management practices.
- Appropriate approaches to disseminate best cultural practices to farmers and ranchers.
- Public policies to facilitate the adoption and practice of organic soil health practices.

Applicants are asked to submit an abstract not to exceed 500 words that includes names of the co-authors, contact information, a working title, the topic area, an introduction that explains the context and purpose of the research, extension or education activity, the methods used, and a brief summary of the results and conclusions. Cross-disciplinary papers are encouraged.



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The intent of the symposium is to provide current information to researchers, extension, farmers, ranchers, educators, agricultural professionals and others interested in organic agriculture, held in conjunction with a meeting that is regularly attended by organic producers and processors. Presentations will be selected based on their innovative excellence, relevance to the research and outreach needs and priorities of organic farmers and ranchers, soundness of the methodology used, and the overall scientific quality. Proceedings will be open access and electronically available via eOrganic.info.

The deadline for submissions is May 1, 2017. Abstracts should be sent to Diana Jerkins at diana@ofrf.org. Applicants with questions about the conference can call 831.426.6606.



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