

**3rd Annual
Growing Pennsylvania's
Organic Farms Conference
December 13 & 14, 2016**

The Sheraton - Harrisburg, PA

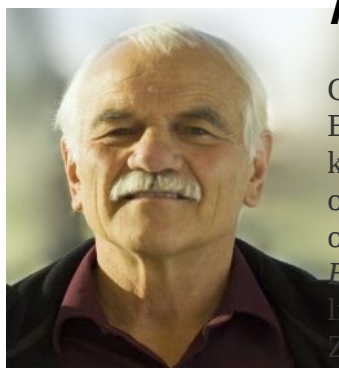


Growing Pennsylvania's Organic Farms



***“A conference providing in-depth education & updates
about organic agricultural practices”***

***Keynote Speaker: Mr. Gary Zimmer,
Midwestern BioAg and author of The Biological Farmer***



Gary Zimmer is Co-Founder, President and Chief Visionary Officer of Midwestern BioAg. Known as the “father” of biological agriculture, Zimmer is an internationally known author, speaker, and consultant. He owns Otter Creek Organic Farm, a family-operated, award-winning 1,000-acre farm near Lone Rock, WI, and has been on the board of Taliesin Preservation Inc. since 2011. Zimmer is the author of two books, *The Biological Farmer* and *Advancing Biological Farming*, and numerous articles on soils and livestock nutrition.

Zimmer holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's degree in Dairy Nutrition from the University of Hawaii.

Conference Topics Include:

Dairy: Grass-fed Milk Production

Field Crops: Organic Small Grains, Soils & Agronomy

Beginner Organic Fruit: Establishing, Growing, Processing & Marketing

Fruit: Best Cover Crop Options in Fruit Plantings,

Organic Mgt. of Pests & Beneficial Insects

Vegetable: Growing Potatoes Organically, Managing Diseases & Soil Health, Certified

Organic Seed, Potato Production, Best Use of Cover Crops in Vegetables

GPOF Planning Committee consists of PA organic farmers, as well as representatives from PA Farm Link, Organic Valley, Penn State Extension, PA Dept. of Ag, Rodale, PCO, NRCS, GMO Free PA, & Perdue Agribusiness.

www.gpofconference.org

This conference qualifies for three SmartStart credits in AgChoice Farm Credit's SmartStart program for young or beginning and small farmers. To learn more about SmartStart, visit www.agchoice.com.



Tuesday Dinner Speaker: Mr. Jim Gerritsen, Wood Prairie Family Farm

Jim Gerritsen and his family have owned and operated Wood Prairie Family Farm as an isolated organic farm in Aroostook County, Maine for 40 years. MOFGA-certified organic since 1982, the Gerritsens grow organic early-generation Maine Certified Seed Potatoes, seed crops, vegetables and grain. They primarily sell their organic seed crops through a mail order catalog and web-based business to customers in all fifty States. Jim co-founded and has served as longtime President of the national farmer-run membership trade organization, Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association (OSGATA). Jim served as President of Organic Seed Alliance (OSA) and for twenty-five years served on the MOFGA Certification Committee. (photo courtesy of Lottie Hedley)

Tentative Schedule

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

8:00 AM-9:00 AM - **Registration**

8:30 AM-9:45 AM - **Exhibit Hall Open**

9:45 AM-10:00 AM - **Welcome & Program Overview**
continued

10:00AM-12:00 PM - **Concurrent Tracks:**

Sarah Flack

Dairy—Grass-fed Milk Production

Dr. Silvia Abel-Caines, DVM & Ms. Sarah Flack

Beginner Organic Fruit—Establishing, Growing, Processing & Marketing
Production

Dr. Jim Travis & Mr. Mike Hagen

Field Crops—Organic Small Grains - Speaker to be announced.

Plantings

Vegetable—Growing Potatoes Organically

Mr. Jim Gerritsen

12:00 PM-1:30 PM - **Organic Lunch & Keynote: Mr. Gary Zimmer**
Tracks:

1:30 PM-2:30 PM - **Visit Exhibits**

continued

2:30 PM -4:30PM - **Concurrent Tracks:**

Sarah Flack

Dairy—Grass-fed Milk Production—continued

Dr. Silvia Abel-Caines, DVM & Ms. Sarah Flack

Beginner Organic Fruit-Establishing, Growing, Processing & Marketing cont'd
in Vegetables

. Ms. Katrina Hall, Oyler's Organic Farm & Market

Mr. Art Metzger, New grower, Metzger's Heritage Farm

& Beneficial

Field Crops—Soils & Agronomy

Mr. Gary Zimmer

Vegetable—Managing Diseases and Soil Health

Dr. Beth Gugino

5:00 PM-6:00 PM - **Cocktails and Refreshments in Exhibit Hall**

6:00 PM-8:15 PM - **Organic Dinner & Growing the Organic Community, Mr. Jim Gerritsen**

Wednesday, December 14,

7:15 AM-8:15 AM - **Organic Breakfast**

8:15 AM-10:10 AM - **Concurrent Tracks:**

Dairy—Grass-fed Milk Production—

Dr. Silvia Abel-Caines, DVM & Ms.

Field Crops—Organic Small Grains

Speaker to be announced

Vegetable—Certified Seed Potato

Mr. Jim Gerritsen

Fruit—Best Cover Crop Options for Fruit

Mr. Steve Groff

10:10 AM-10:40 AM - **Break in Exhibit Hall**

10:40 AM-12:30 PM - **Concurrent**

Dairy—Grass-fed Milk Production—

Dr. Silvia Abel-Caines, DVM & Ms.

Field Crops -Soils & Agronomy

Mr. Gary Zimmer

Vegetable - Best Use of Cover Crops

Mr. Steve Groff

Fruits - Organic Management of Pest

Insects - Dr. Greg Krawczyk

12:30 PM—**3rd Annual Conference Adjourns**

**The Sheraton, Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, 4650 Lindle Rd., Harrisburg, PA
17111**

Easy access to I-283, I-83, I-81, Rt. 322, and free shuttle to HIA airport

Room Block rate: \$110. for all rooms, ask for Growing Pennsylvania's Organic Farms Conference

First come first served, block rate cut off date: November 21, 2016.

Hotel

Reservations: 1-800-325-3535

Day 1: registration fee \$40; organic lunch, dinner w/ keynote & evening speaker \$80.

Day 2: registration fee \$19; organic breakfast buffet \$24

Online registration at: **www.gpofconference.org**

Interested Exhibitors should email: info@gpofconference.org