

Date: July 1, 2014  
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-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

**Free Transitioning to Organic Grain Production Field Day**  
*Join expert farmers and industry representatives to learn about organic grain production practices, marketing opportunities and certification*

The 2014 Pennsylvania Organic FarmFest is becoming an established tradition in central PA, and highlights innovative educational workshops for growers and livestock producers. This year we are offering a free Transitioning to Organic Grain Production Field Day during FarmFest at the Grange Fairgrounds on Friday, Aug. 1st, from 1-4pm.

The session will begin at 1pm with welcome and introductions followed by a talk on organic grain marketing opportunities with Kreamer Feeds, Nature's Best Organic Feeds. Nature's Best is a premier organic grain mill in PA and this session is sure to provide useful information on the developing local organic grain market and opportunities that are available for producers.

At 1:45 we offer an informal Farmer Panel featuring Mary-Howell and Klaas Martens, and Joel Steigman. They will discuss production considerations for growing organic grains and field questions on marketing grains. They draw on their combined 32 years of experience to help farmers make decisions and formulate a clean transition to selling organic grain.

Mary-Howell & Klaas Martens of Lakeview Organic Grain in Penn Yan, NY have been farming organically since 1993. They farm about 1,400 acres of organic corn, soybeans, small grains (wheat, spelt, barley, oats, triticale), field peas, winter peas, dark red kidney beans and edamame soybeans. In addition to organic grains, they raise organic cows, pigs and chickens. Mary-Howell is at the mill everyday, in charge of both the business end of the feed business and the seed division of Lakeview.

Joel Steigman of Small Valley Milling specializes in organic spelt and wheat flours. Small Valley Milling is a family owned and operated organic flour mill 25 miles north of Harrisburg. The flour produced originates mainly from grain raised on the family operated organic farm surrounding the mill and neighboring farms. In 1997, Joel decided to transition to organic farming. The family's interest in spelt grain led them to raise spelt on the farm and construct a facility to de-hull (remove the outer husk) the grain so it can be enjoyed as a nutritious whole grain or be milled into flour.

The day will finish up with a discussion of organic grain production practices covering soils, cover crops, tillage, and rotations, and an overview of organic

certification from Pennsylvania Certified Organic staff. Come learn what you need to know to successfully grow and market organic grains. Meet representatives of the organic grain marketing industry, talk to organic grain farmers and get your questions answered, and learn the organic certification process and what it takes to get certified. And while you're there, enjoy what FarmFest 2014 has to offer the agricultural community.

The 2014 Pennsylvania Organic FarmFest is a fun, free community-building event that fosters knowledge of organic agriculture and sustainable living through educational opportunities, local foods, lively entertainment, and interactive family activities. This year, FarmFest will take place Friday and Saturday, August 1-2 at the famous Centre County Grange Fairgrounds in Centre Hall, PA. Friday hours are 12pm-10:30pm; Saturday hours are 9am-10:30pm.

Visit us at [farmfest.paorganic.org](http://farmfest.paorganic.org) or call 814-422-0251 for more details and to learn how you can reserve a coveted Grange Fair Army Tent or camping spot, run in the FarmFest 5K on Saturday morning Aug 2 at 9 am, or select the educational workshops you'd like to attend. Bring the whole family to FarmFest 2014 and learn, shop, listen, play, and eat local organic foods from area farmers!

The Organic Grain Production Field Day is free to the public. Contact Lee Rinehart at 814-470-9734 or email at [lee@paorganic.org](mailto:lee@paorganic.org) to register or find out more. You can also register online at <http://www.paorganic.org/transitioning-to-organic-grains-production>.

*Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) is a USDA-accredited certifying agency dedicated to assuring the integrity of organic agricultural products through education, inspection and certification of growers, processors and handlers. The field day is held in partnership with the Pennsylvania Women's Agriculture Network (PA WAgN) and is sponsored by Nature's Best Organic Feeds. Support also provided by Penns Mault.*