



# SASKATCHEWAN BEST ORGANIC MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

*Introductory Research Report W2006-19*

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## INTRODUCTION

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The organic sector in Saskatchewan is a strong and vibrant force within the whole of agriculture. Organic grain production on the prairies is estimated to be worth 98 million dollars annually (Macey 2004). The Canadian market for organic meat is worth over 15 million dollars annually, with beef production concentrated on the prairies (Organic Monitor 2004). There are about 1200 organic producers in Saskatchewan. The success of these farmers has come through their desire to find new ways and or rediscover old ways of farming. Often organic producers feel that they have limited access to the information they need, especially when they are first starting out. This project aims to improve that access.

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## GATHERING INFORMATION

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We sought information from real organic experts - the experienced organic farmers. We interviewed 34 producers across Saskatchewan to learn of their practices and their advice. These producers had 10 to 20 years organic experience, or were identified by their producer groups as exceptional organic farmers. We scoured the literature to find scientific documentation of organic methods and recommendations for organic practice. We have over 200 references from 1889 to 2006. These include federal agricultural bulletins and provincial fact sheets, theses, text books, proceedings, web publications as well as scientific peer-reviewed journal articles.



Jennifer Bromm shares information at field day



Organic producers learn from each other at field day

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## MAKING INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE

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We will develop Best Organic Management Practice fact sheets for 3 soil zones in Saskatchewan. These will contain the best practices, advice and cautions of expert organic producers in each area. They will also include archival and modern scientific information. Topics include soils; tillage; rotations; weed, disease and insect management; livestock management; innovation; and advice for new farmers in transition.

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## NEXT STEPS

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We have a small number of interviews yet to conduct, and we will present a workshop in the brown soil zone. Best Organic Management Practice fact sheets will be written, reviewed by scientific and farmer experts, and made available to producers directly and at [oacc.info](http://oacc.info).

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**Project Leader:** Jennifer Bromm

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### For more information:

Visit [oacc.info](http://oacc.info) or contact us at:

University of Saskatchewan

51 Campus Dr., Saskatoon SK S7N 5A8

Tel: (306) 966-4975 Fax: (306) 966-5015

Email: [organic@usask.ca](mailto:organic@usask.ca)

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