

# OTTER CREEK ORGANIC FIELD DAY

Join us Tuesday, August 16 for Midwestern BioAg's Otter Creek Organic Field Day. Owned by Gary Zimmer, Otter Creek Organic Farms spans 1,000 acres and has been on the Midwestern BioAg organic fertility program for over 20 years. Field Day will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude with a field walk led by Gary Zimmer. Sessions include:

## **Transitioning to High-Production Organic Ag**

In this session, Midwestern BioAg's Ben Bartlett will discuss the transition process and the tools available to help growers transition smoothly and successfully. Ben will detail how organic farmers can improve soil productivity, control weeds and maximize yields both during and after the transition process.

## **Organic Dairy Management**

A systems-approach to herd management can pay dividends on organic dairies. Join Midwestern BioAg's Dave Meidl and Rachel Dick to learn how forage quality improvements can lead to many benefits, including improved production, herd health and reduced purchased mineral costs.

## **Organic Crop & Milk Marketing: A Panel**

Learn the ins and outs of organic crop and milk marketing from industry experts on our marketing panel. We will be joined by Mercaris, Organic Valley and Midwestern BioAg consultant and organic farmer Ray Yokiell to learn how to get the best return from organic and transitional products.

## **Large-Scale Organic Vegetable Production**

In this session, Midwestern BioAg vegetable experts Mark Klish and Tom Shibley will cover the essentials of large-scale organic vegetable production. Mark and Tom will discuss organic growing challenges and how growers can navigate them profitably. Topics include cover crops, fertilizer and tillage.

## **Organic Nitrogen Management**

While some nitrogen can be purchased as fertilizer, the majority of organic nitrogen must be managed on the farm. Midwestern BioAg's Leilani Zimmer-Durand and Alan Kauffman will detail the pros and cons of organic nitrogen sources, including diverse, tight crop rotations and well-managed cover crops.

## **Profitability Starts with Soil Health**

Healthy, biologically active soils are the main driver of organic farming success. Join Midwestern BioAg consultants Firman Hershberger and Brandon Meiners in the soil pit to take a closer look at soil health and the benefits it brings to the farm — increased nutrient availability, reduced weed and pest pressure and more productive crops.

## **Organic Weed & Pest Management**

Forgoing crop protection chemicals can be challenging, but there are many other tools available to keep crop performance strong. In this session, Midwestern BioAg's Andy Glodowski will provide insight on organic weed and pest management and how tools like equipment and cover crops can support crop performance. Andy will be joined by Brian Zabel, Otter Creek field manager, who will walk through the weed control equipment used at Otter Creek Farms and answer questions from guests.

 **Tuesday, August 16, 2016**  
**6620 WI Hwy. 130, Avoca, WI.**



**Spots are limited — and so are lunches!**  
**Please RSVP by 8/1 at 608.841.1659.**