



MOFGA's Agricultural Services

All staff can be reached by calling the MOFGA Office (207) 568-4142 unless otherwise noted.

Agricultural Services Director – coordinating department activities and specializing in production advice. Dave has 35 years of experience in farming, primarily vegetable and hoophouse production. Farm systems including crop rotations, weed management, soil fertility, crop planning and record keeping are particular areas of expertise. Dave Colson, dcolson@mofga.org

Aroostook County Coordinator – serving Aroostook county producers by helping with crop rotations plans, pest and weed management, crop fertility plans, as well as helping to connect farms to various markets. John Chartier, 207-521-1200, jchartier@mofga.org

Organic Crops Specialist - working with farmers to develop soil and pest management plans, crop rotation using green manures and help solve disease and insect problems. Eric compiles weekly pest reports during the growing season. Eric Sideman, 603-269-6201, esideman@mofga.org

Organic Dairy and Livestock Specialist – primarily assists dairy farmers with all aspects of dairy farming, but can also answer questions about other livestock issues. Jacki Perkins, jperkins@mofga.org

Organic Livestock Specialist - providing information on livestock and poultry management, including: housing, nutrition, pasture management, health care prevention and treatments. Diane Schivera, dianes@mofga.org

Organic Marketing and Business Specialist – assisting farms with market research and developing marketing and business plans. Also offering programming to support organic farm viability such as price reporting, technical assistance grants, and consumer education materials. Heather Omand, homand@mofga.org

Organic Orchardist - managing MOFGA's orchards and helping fruit tree growers build orchard health and establish methods of pest and disease control. CJ Walke, cjwalke@mofga.org

Farmer Programs & Resources

Shared Use Farm Equipment – MOFGA houses and maintains specialized equipment that many smaller farmers want to access occasionally but do not need to own. Equipment currently includes a seedbed cultivator, mulch layer/bed former, subsoiler, ridge tiller, and strip tiller. FMI - contact Daniel MacPhee at dmacphee@mofga.org.

Fact Sheets – MOFGA publishes fact sheets on a variety of crop and livestock production topics, as well as conservation and organic certification. mofga.org/Publications/FactSheets and mofgacertification.org/?page_id=2024

Organic Price Reporting – The organic price reports are published a few times per year and can include; prices from different regions, wholesale and retail, produce, meat, dairy, and more. FMI - mofga.org/Publications/OrganicPriceReports or contact Heather Omand at homand@mofga.org

Pest Reports – these reports are a compilation of short discussions of pests and diseases either working the fields or soon to be seen. The discussions include biology of the pest organism, effects on the plant, and recommended solutions. FMI and to sign up to receive them - mofga.org/Publications/PestReports

Organic Farmer Loan Fund - The loan fund provides loans to small and medium-sized businesses seeking to expand or enhance their farm or processing operations. Funds in this program may also be used for re-strategizing, working capital or equipment purchases. Loans from the Organic Farmer Loan Fund are in the range of \$2,000 to \$20,000. mofga.org/Programs/OrganicFarmerLoanFund

Kiva Zip Loans - MOFGA is a trustee and partner of Kiva Zip, which offers 0% loans up to \$10,000 for farmers. Kiva loans with Trustees fundraise more successfully, and have higher repayment rates, so the Kiva loan review team prioritizes loans endorsed by Trustees. FMI - contact Daniel MacPhee at dmacphee@mofga.org.

Journeyperson Program - MOFGA's JP program provides hands-on support, training, and mentorship for people who are serious about pursuing careers in organic farming in Maine. FMI - mofga.org/Programs/JourneypersonProgram or contact Ryan Dennett at rdennett@mofga.org.

MOFGA Farm Beginnings – This series of workshops supports development of a whole farm plan through realistic goal setting and assessment of resources, skills, and markets – and develops the business planning tools necessary to implement your plan. FMI - mofga.org/Programs/MOFGAFarmBeginnings or contact Ryan Dennett at rdennett@mofga.org.

Farm Apprenticeships - this program connects people wanting to learn organic farming with experienced farmers willing to share their expertise. The typical arrangement involves an exchange of labor for room, board, a stipend, and informal, intensive training and experience in farming. FMI - mofga.org/Programs/FarmApprenticeships or Ryan Dennett at rdennett@mofga.org.

Organic Farmer Toolkit - This toolkit helps organic producers at any stage in their business development find crucial business management resources. FMI - mofga.org/AgriculturalServices/OrganicFarmerToolkit or contact Heather Omand at homand@mofga.org

MOFGA Events - MOFGA hosts hundreds of meetings, workshops, conferences, dinners, and festive gatherings. Many take place at our Common Ground Education Center in Unity, Maine, and many more happen at farms, businesses, and other venues statewide. mofga.org/Events or contact Anna Mueller at events@mofga.org

There's more... FMI – mofga.org, 568-4142, or email mofga@mofga.org