

# Canadian Organic Growers

- A national registered, educational charity Proudly serving producers, gardeners and consumers since 1975
- Hybrid Extension Services incl. on/off farm training;
   research; books/guides; courses and many other resources
- BMPs Promoting best organic/regenerative management practices
- Pan-Canadian Collaboration & Advocacy- Driving better policies and protecting the sector in collaboration with our partners and affiliated organizations







#### **Our Mission**

COG provides education, advocacy and leadership to help build an agricultural system that:

- Empowers farmers and consumers,
- Enhances human health, builds community; and
- Mitigates climate change while increasing Canadian food sovereignty.



# Canadian Organic Growers

#### **COG's Leadership**

COG's Board of Directors is comprised of primarily organic and regenerative farmers. The Board's Executive includes:



Dr. Allison Squires
President
Organic Farmer



Gillian Flies
Ex-Officio President
Organic Farmer



Vice-President
Organic Farmer













#### What is organic?

How regenerative practices build the foundation for strong food ecosystems

- Internationally recognized model of food production
- Guided by 4 principles
- Standards adherence strict production requirements
- Annual third-party audit
- Farmers as innovators
- Model for ecological and economic resilience





### Why does it matter?

How regenerative practices build the foundation for strong food ecosystems

- Systems-focused versus input-focused
- Impacting:
  - Soil health
  - Climate change
  - Biodiversity
  - Ecosystem health
  - Farm and community resiliency
  - Food security
  - Human health
  - Farm profitablity





#### Food System Impact

How regenerative practices build the foundation for strong food ecosystems

- Food systems that are inclusive of organic production tend to achieve higher sustainability outcomes:
  - Ecosystem services
  - Food accessibility
  - System diversity
  - Farm profitability & succession

#### THREE PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY Adapted from Kebreab, 2013 ENVIRONMENT **ECO-ECONOMIC** Natural resource use; SOCIO-ECO Nutrient management; Farm energy and nutrient efficiency; Environmental justice; Biodiversity management; Lifecycle farm management; Natural resource stewardship: Economic incentives and subsidies for Pollution prevention (air, water, Environmental health and safety; stewardship: land, waste) Ecosystem service provision Markets for ecosystem services SOCIO-ECO-ECO **ECONOMIC** SUSTAINABILITY SOCIAL **ECONOMIC** SOCIO-Food and fiber Viable livelihoods: ECONOMIC production: Economic prosperity Food access: Community development Community well-being; research Diversity SOCIO-ECONOMIC Farmer, farmworker and agricultural processor wages; Worker's rights; COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY Agricultural business ethics: Corporate social responsibility SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



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