Membership
Know Your Community: Organic Management Systems
by Ellen Mallory

The Organic Management Systems (OMS) community is dedicated to furthering the science of organic and ecological agricultural systems. Formed just four years ago, OMS has quickly become one of the more active communities in the Agronomic Production Systems section. The OMS community sponsors annual symposia, including last year’s lively symposium titled “Organic Systems and Climate Change: Stability, Resilience, and Profitability,” and holds general oral and poster sessions for members to share their latest results. The OMS community also piloted a Sunday daylong tour of Organic Farming in Southwest Florida at the 2013 Annual Meeting of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA in Tampa. Sixty-two participants learned from area farmers and each other about local organic production systems and enjoyed the opportunity to get to know each other and the local landscape. The positive response to this first tour ensures that local farm tours will be an OMS community offering at future meetings.

At this year’s meeting in Long Beach, the OMS community is co-hosting an exciting two-day international pre-conference entitled, “Innovations in Organic Food Systems for Sustainable Production and Enhanced Ecosystem Services.” OMS community leaders partnered with USDA-NIFA and the International Center for Research in Organic Farming Systems (ICROFS) in Denmark to secure funding from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation in organic agriculture to the Annual Meeting. A description of the pre-conference appears on page X of this issue. For more information and to register, visit www.acsmeetings.org/tours-workshops#Workshops.

Certified organic food and fiber production must conform to a unique set of standards and different cultural practices than typically are followed in other agricultural production systems. Research in support of organic agriculture is both relevant and needed when conducted within the context of USDA certified organic standards. Members of the OMS community are dedicated to furthering the science of organic and agro-ecological systems. We hope you’ll consider joining us!

For more information about our community, please visit the OMS website at www.agronomy.org/membership/communities/organic-management-systems or contact Ellen Mallory, community leader, at ellen.mallory@maine.edu or Erin Silva, community vice-leader, at emsilva@wisc.edu.

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doi:10.2134/csa2014-59-8-10

Organic Management System community members touring an urban organic farm in Tampa before the Annual Meeting.