

**The Organic Center Presents:  
Biodiversity and Profitability on Organic Farms**



**Today's Presenters**

**Amber Sciligo, Ph.D.**

As the Associate Director of Science Programs for The Organic Center, Dr. Amber Sciligo works closely with researchers, industry, farmers, and policy makers to identify organic research needs, facilitate project implementation and communicate scientific results across the organic sector. She leads the Center's reports compiling current science on critical issues affecting organic food and farming and also heads The Center's grant writing program. Dr. Sciligo received her PhD at Lincoln University, New Zealand in Ecology and Evolution with a specialty in plant/insect interactions. Her extensive postdoctoral work at UC Berkeley included interdisciplinary projects that focused on organic and diversified farming systems, ecosystem services, and barriers to sustainable farming practices. The main goal of her past work was to understand how farming practices that promote biodiversity and other ecosystem services can be more broadly adopted.

**Contact Amber:**

Email: [asciligo@organic-center.org](mailto:asciligo@organic-center.org)

Twitter: @OrganicCenter

Instagram: @OrganicCenter

**Olivia Smith, Ph.D.**

Dr. Olivia Smith is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Georgia in the Department of Entomology. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Siena Heights University in 2013, a Master of Science degree from The Ohio State University in 2015, and a doctorate in Biology from Washington State University in 2019. Broadly, her research examines how farm management interacts with the land use around a farm to influence how biodiversity impacts agriculture. Her research includes aspects of wildlife conservation, food safety, natural pest control, crop yields, and farm profitability.

**Contact Olivia:**

Email: [Olivia.M.Smith@wsu.edu](mailto:Olivia.M.Smith@wsu.edu)

**David Crowder, Ph.D.**

Dr. David Crowder is an Associate Professor in the Department of Entomology at Washington State University. He earned both his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from the University of Illinois. David completed his doctorate from the University of Arizona in Entomology in 2008. He's the principal lead of the Crowder Laboratory in the WSU Department of Entomology. There the lab uses theory, experiments, and observational studies to address questions aimed at understanding the factors that shape insect communities and plant-insect interactions. Their research is mostly conducted in agricultural ecosystems and addresses both basic and applied issues; this allows them to ask fundamental questions while also developing solutions to real-world problems. Their research integrates theoretical work (simulation, analytical, and statistical models) with empirical studies (observational work, manipulative experiments).

**Contact David:**

Email: [DCrowder@wsu.edu](mailto:DCrowder@wsu.edu)

Twitter: @CrowderLabWSU