

Uncovering Profitability in the Organic System

Panel Moderated by:

Anna Jones-Crabtree, Owner & Farmer,
Vilicus Farms



Rosalie Sheehy Cates,

Senior Advisor, *The Giving Practice*

Rosalie Sheehy Cates is a senior advisor at The Giving Practice, and an advisor on impact investing to Philanthropy Northwest. She helps foundations create and implement impact investing programs, with a special interest in financing farms, food systems, small business and affordable housing. Rosalie worked at and eventually led MT Community Development Corporation from 1990 - 2010. Prior to that she lived in Wisconsin, organizing family farmers and helping her husband raise beef cattle. She lives, walks and reads in Missoula, MT.



Brandy Dreibelbis,

Dir. of School Food Operations,

The Chef Ann Foundation

Brandy Dreibelbis has most recently been the Director of Food Services for NOSH at the Napa Valley Unified School District in Napa, CA. Brandy was hired in 2017 as the first Director of Food Services of NVUSD and asked to transition the department from an out-sourced food services program to a scratch cooked, self-operating program.

NOSH was awarded an Innovation Award in 2019 for Fresh and Sustainable Kitchens. Prior to moving to Napa, Brandy was the Executive Chef/District Manager of the School Food Project for the Boulder Valley School District in Boulder, CO. The School Food Project at Boulder Valley School District is one of the top-rated school lunch programs in the country. Brandy is also the former Executive Chef of the flagship Whole Foods Market Pearl Street in Boulder, Colorado. Prior to moving to Colorado, Brandy was the Executive Chef of the award-winning Blue Moon Restaurant in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

She received her B.S. in Hotel, Restaurant, Tourism Management from East Stroudsburg University and her Culinary Arts degree from Culinary School of the Rockies. Brandy is committed to creating a model healthy school lunch program and is an advocate for healthy food for school children.



Jennifer Dees,

Branch Manager and Insurance Agent,

Northwest Farm Credit Services

Jennifer has more than thirteen years of experience at Northwest Farm Credit Services working in various roles from lending to risk management. Jennifer has an MBA from the University of Montana and a Bachelor of Science degree from MSU-Moorhead in Finance. In addition to her work at Northwest Farm Credit Services, Jennifer also runs a small grain operation with her husband in Kremlin, MT. Jennifer is also actively involved in the community and serves an EMT for the Hill County Ambulance.



Nathan Irons,

Founder, CEO, Bluestone Life

Nathan founded and managed a unique Registered Investment Advisory business designed to eliminate conflicts of interest inherent in the financial services industry.

Over his twenty-five-year career, Nathan developed a deep understanding of life insurance, securities, business, and financial planning.

Bluestone is more than a company for Nathan, it is a lever for the kind of financial impact that creates powerful change.

The Bluestone logo features the word "bluestone" in a bold, blue, serif font. A registered trademark symbol (®) is positioned at the end of the word. The logo is centered on a white background, which is part of a larger white rectangular area on the right side of the slide. A thick yellow vertical bar is located on the far right edge of the slide, extending from the top to the bottom.

David LeZaks,

Senior Fellow, Croatan Institute

David LeZaks, Ph.D., is an environmental scientist and financial activist whose work is centered around developing innovative mechanisms for financing the transition to agroecological farming and food systems.

Before joining Croatan Institute, Dr. LeZaks led the Regenerative Food Systems initiative at Delta Institute in Chicago, where he managed a portfolio of projects that focused on the design and deployment of disruptive mechanisms to unlock substantial capital flows into regenerative agriculture. Previously, he served as an RSF Social Finance Integrated Capital Institute fellow. Earlier in his career, David was a postdoctoral scientist at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where he completed his Ph.D. in Environment and Resources and an M.S. in Land Resources. Afterward, he served as Managing Scientist of the Knowledge Systems for Sustainability Consortium and Program Director of the university's Agricultural Innovation Prize. Currently, he serves in advisory roles to Mad Agriculture, the Savanna Institute, Nourish, Council of Development Finance Agencies' Food Systems Finance Advisory Council, and the Transformational Investing in Food Systems initiative, an allied initiative of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food.

