

Speaker Bios – 2025 Soil Panel

Dr. Kris Nichols is the Lead Soil Scientist with Food Water Wellness Foundation in Olds, Alberta and Research Director at MyLand Company Inc. in Phoenix, Arizona. She founded KRIS (Knowledge for Regeneration and Innovation in Soils) Systems and was a Senior Science Advisor with Canadian Organic Growers, the Chief Scientist at Rodale Institute, and a Research (Soil) Microbiologist with the USDA-Agricultural Research Service. Kris advisor to the Real Organic Project; Savory Institute's – Ecological Outcome Verification program, McCain's Farms of the Future; and Health First. She has Bachelor of Science degrees in Plant Biology and Genetics and Cell Biology, a Master's degree in Environmental Microbiology, and a Ph.D. in Soil Science. Kris has given over 300 invited presentations throughout the world, authored or co-authored more than 30 peer-reviewed publications, been cited or interviewed for more than 100 magazine or newspaper articles and multiple books, numerous videos on-line, and two documentaries.



Bob Quinn is a leading green businessman, with successful ventures in both organic agriculture and renewable energy. Raised on a 2,400 acre wheat and cattle ranch in Montana, Quinn earned a Ph.D. in plant biochemistry at UC Davis before coming home to farm in 1978. In 1986, he planted his first organic crop, and by 1989, he had converted his entire farm. He served on the first NOSB, which spurred the creation of the USDA's NOP, and has been recognized with the Montana Organic Association Lifetime of Service Award, The Organic Trade Association Organic Leadership Award, and Rodale Institute's Organic Pioneer Award. In 2023 he donated 700 acres of his farm to create a regenerative organic research, education and health institute. The vision and mission of Quinn Institute is "Healing the Earth by Growing Food as Medicine".



He also pioneered Kamut International, a thriving business that turned an ancient grain into a global superfood synonymous with health and community. You can watch a summary of this journey in film "[*Ancient Grain for Future Farming*](#)"

Dr. Sean Stokes is the Research Director of the Rodale Institute's Midwest Organic Center located in Marion, IA. He leads the research at a 30-acre research farm focused on organic production and regenerative management. He earned a PhD in Soil & Crop Science and a MS in Environmental Toxicology from Colorado State University. The primary long-term research trial at the farm is focused on diversifying corn-soybean rotations with livestock integration, small grains, or pulses and analyzing the impact this has on soil health and farm profitability. Dr. Stokes also oversees a research trial focused on vegetable production and the impact on crop yield, soil health, and water quality from different tillage practices in combination with a biochar soil amendment. His prior research career has focused on a variety of topics related to agricultural systems, including molecular changes to soil organic matter, the relationship between soil health and crop productivity in orange trees infected with citrus greening disease, and the efficacy of pesticide applications and their degradation rates once applied. He is originally from Golden, Colorado so when he isn't working you can find him outside enjoying nature, preferably in the mountains or on a river.

