



## Matthew Dillon | Co-CEO, Organic Trade Association

Matthew Dillon serves as a co-CEO at the Organic Trade Association. He joined the trade association in January 2024, bringing a lifetime of work in food and farming. Together with the Board of Directors and co-CEO Tom Chapman, he is responsible for defining the association's mission and establishing shared objectives for OTA's member companies. Matthew leads the association's public relations, policy agenda, member engagement, and fundraising. He represents both the association and the organic trade in an official capacity when interfacing with members of Congress, the Executive Branch, media, stakeholders, and strategic allies.

Raised in an agricultural family and community in Nebraska, Matthew has held diverse roles in the organic sector, working from seed to shelf. He most recently served as a sustainability advisor to consumer-packaged goods companies, Chief Sustainability Officer for Farmer Focus, and spent ten years at Clif Bar in numerous positions with his final role as VP of Impact and Government Relations.

After being introduced to organic farming while in high school, raising produce with the monks at Mount Michael for a natural food store in Omaha, he later farmed vegetables, flowers, and seed crops in Philo, California and developed an interest in developing the organic seed sector. He served as Executive Director/CEO of Abundant Life Seed, one of the first organic seed companies in the US, managing a network of organic farmers and a collection of over 2,000 rare seed varieties. In 2003, Matthew founded Organic Seed Alliance, the nation's first organic seed advocacy and plant breeding organization. He was appointed to the USDA National Genetic Resource Council, held a role on the board of advisors to The Bread Lab, and the board of directors for the Organic Trade Association and Organic PAC.