

OAK Conference 2025 Opening Session Poll



Question: Thinking about time management, what's one tool or idea that you use, or that you plan to implement this year in your own work?

Responses: (Note: crowd-sourced responses have not been edited)

- discord - our farm has several text channels in a discord server to help keep communications organized and to consolidate data. we use this for daily tasks, logging amendments, plant logs, harvest weight logs, etc. data is easily transferable to an excel document for proper documentation. we've created a text channel for each log, amendment application, pests, starting to get into characteristics of each crop, and more. this has streamlined our data collection for both our use in the future and for record keeping. instead of having to track down a pen and log sheet, our farmers can plug information directly into discord and we can access it at any time. the discord server is searchable, so you can always relate back to previous instances.
- No social media or tv allows more time in our lives
- Storyboard/visual mapping
- Creating more SOPs so we dont have to spend as much time training and retraining people
- Give farm employees time estimates for task completion
- Reorganizing garden plots to be closer together, better planning and organization a few weeks into the future, log book to keep track of time spent working
- Plastic mulch between rows for weed management reduced labor by almost 75%. I resisted this for 6 years as I was trying to avoid plastic use on the farm. We tried wood chip mulch and cover crops but still fought aggressive weed pressure every year. But I noticed almost all organic farms near me used plastic mulch. I trialed two rows and it was the easiest farm year ever. The water management was better, soil microbiome seemed more lively, bug pressure was very low, and my crop yield was almost double due to almost no weed pressure. I can now be a vegetable farmer not a weed farmer.
- Structure meetings each Sunday, from work to home life to solo time, to fun, we meet and check in each week to make sure we are all on the same page and are scheduling time outside of work.
- Reminder app, especially for tasks far off in the future. External storage for my brain.

- A 12 month planner, and more focus on the priorities. There's a lot of dead space, but a ton of work to be done. If there was more discipline in focus and concern about the things you CAN do or change vs what you cannot there would be more measurable progress and help boost confidence in your operation.
- "Family meeting" to think/plan through the week ahead
- Close watch of weather to ensure best times to harvest, prepare beds and load up for markets, deliveries, etc. to get best efficiencies during the day
- Tracking how long tasks take so that you can figure out if crops or processes are worth it! Example: If it takes you hours to transplant a bed of beets, maybe you should direct seed or use a paper plotter
- Rigorous planning, creating lists of priorities, eliminating distractions
- Google shared doc - plan for the week
- Keeping a plan and a schedule/ setting reminders on my phone helps me to organize the to do list
- A better calendar system that includes daily tasks and hiring a part time assistant.
- Google task, with Steve Coveys prioritization added.
- perennials, agroforestry, farm work parties with friends, attempting to not bite off more than i can chew
- Looking at a sustainable business plan to allow for financial success along with work life balance
- Dedicated time blocks specifically dedicated to business development to achieve larger goals.
- Monthly, weekly, and daily planning
- I use the process of most important to least important. Then add in the motto there is always tomorrow for the least important items.
- Heifer USA has worksheets to help plan daily tasks throughout the year. I hope to use those for my farm when I find the land to start.
- Shared spreadsheets with goals and timelines to help with group project work.
- Shareable google sheets and docs have been a big time saver for us!

- Plan a vacation this year since it has been 12 years since last planned vacation Also schedule slots in day to do specific items instead of flying by seat of pants method"
- OneLife - work and 'life' are not separate, deepening and narrowing focus so that you are embodying what you really want to do and be
- Investing more money \$\$\$ in time saving infrastructure
- Scheduling vacations well in advance
- Actually putting a calendar up on the wall
- Scrum
- Knowing what is the most valuable objective to accomplish and being okay that you can not get everything done in one day.
- I like the idea of not casting too wide of a net and focusing on what I enjoy growing/what works for me versus trying too many different things at once.
- Seeder