

**Laura Schlenker**  
**Washington State Hay Producer**

*Note: These are notes taken during her presentation, not a transcript*

Ms. Schlenker's farm grows about 1,000 acres of alfalfa rotated with corn. All of the land in her area in Washington State is irrigated. Her customers for alfalfa hay are dairy farmers in the area who operate both organic and conventional farms. Her farm produces organic, conventional and GM alfalfa hay.

The organic hay production is very closely monitored to ensure that the farm's organic certification is maintained, and the intensive management systems they have in place to maintain coexistence have been successful.

Some of the regular practices on the farm are:

- Regular mowing of buffers between fields to ensure that there is no flowering
- Separate stacking fields for organic, conventional and GM hay
- After a field is cut, the swathers are thoroughly cleaned
- Truck decks are cleaned at the destination after transport of hay

Coexistence is possible – her farm is proof.