



The

Organic Broadcaster

July - August 2008

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In This Issue

Page

2 • News From MOSES

2- News From the NOSB

Latest meeting notes

3 • Inside Organics

Farm Bill synopsis

4 • Surviving Floods

Midwest hit again

7 • Book Review

Weed the Soil!

8 • Info on Cover Crops

Mi State Univ

10 • Dairy Farmers

Need more \$\$\$

12 • Poetry and Websites

13 • Farm Photos

14 • News Briefs

16 • Calendar

17 • Grain Prices

18 • Classifieds

MIDWEST ORGANIC
& Sustainable Education Service
MOSES

Nematodes for Insect Pest Control

By Vern Grubinger

Vegetable and Berry Specialist, University of Vermont Extension

Nematodes are the most numerous multicellular animals on earth. A handful of soil will contain thousands of the microscopic worms, many of them parasites of insects, plants or animals. Free-living species are abundant, including nematodes that feed on bacteria, fungi, and other nematodes, yet the vast majority of species encountered are poorly understood biologically. There are nearly 20,000 described species classified in the phylum Nemata.

Nematodes are structurally simple organisms. Adult nematodes are comprised of approximately 1,000 somatic cells, and potentially hundreds of cells associated with the reproductive system. Nematodes have been characterized as a tube within a tube, referring to the alimentary canal which extends from the mouth on the anterior end, to the anus located near the tail. Nematodes possess digestive, nervous, excretory, and reproductive systems, but lack a discrete circulatory or respiratory system. In size they range from 0.3 mm to over 8 meters. (The above introduction is from the University of Nebraska- Lincoln Nematology website)

Some nematodes are friends, some are foes, and some could be considered neutral. It all depends on their eating habits. Of the thousands of kinds of nematodes, some feed on insects, some eat plant roots, while others consume bacteria or are parasites of animals.

Nematodes are found all over the world in many kinds of habitats. For farmers, the nematodes of interest are soil-dwellers that either attack crop roots (bad nematodes) or feed on insect pests (good nematodes).

Bad Nematodes

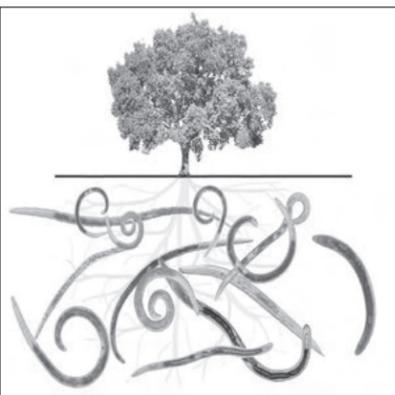
These are called plant parasitic nematodes. They either attack plants from the outside (ectoparasitic) or they live inside the host plant for part of their lives (endoparasitic). Both of these nematodes inject saliva into their host plants that results in damage, either by killing tissue or causing the creation of many giant cells that form galls. There are many kinds of plant parasitic nematodes, and most have a relatively narrow host range. A few nematodes, such

as the root-knot nematode and the root-lesion nematode, attack many kinds of crops. Damage from nematodes includes stunting, chlorosis, and root distortion.

Good Nematodes

Enough bad news; let's focus on beneficial nematodes, how they work, and how to best use them. The following information comes from the fact sheet

"Insect-Parasitic Nematodes for the Management of Soil-Dwelling Insects" by Dr. Mary Barbercheck, Department of Entomology at Penn State University. Insect-parasitic nematodes help farmers by providing biological control of soil-dwelling insect pests. These nematodes occur naturally in the soil, or they can be purchased and introduced. They are relatively easy to mass produce and are available from several commercial labs as "biological insecticides" which are exempt from EPA registration. These nematodes can infect many kinds of insects, but they don't infect birds or mammals.



Big Names Worth Knowing

The nematodes commonly used as biological control agents for soil pests belong to the families Steinernematidae and Heterorhabditidae. Some commercially available nematode species are: *Steinernema carpocapsae*, *S. feltiae*, *S. riobrave*, *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*, *H. marelatus*, and *H. megidis*. These nematodes are generally used for management of soil insect pests in high value crops.

How They Kill Insects

These nematodes carry bacteria in their bodies that are toxic to insects. That's why they are called 'entomopathogenic' (insect-killing) nematodes. The nematodes and bacteria are always found together because they depend on each other. The bacteria need the nematodes to deliver them into the insects, and the nematodes need the bacteria for food and to create conditions in the insect that allow it to reproduce. The bacteria are safe to animals and have only been found in association with these nematodes and infected insects, never living freely in soil.

What Goes Around, Comes Around

Nematodes are only deadly to insects at one stage in their life cycle, called the infective juvenile, or IJ. This is the only time that the insect pathogenic nematode exists outside of the host insect. Infective juvenile nematodes in the soil seek out insects then enter them through their natural body openings. Once inside the insect body, the nematodes release their bacteria, which multiply and eventually kill the host. But not before the nematodes develop into adults, reproduce, and produce offspring. A few weeks after the initial infection, the new generation of nematodes develops into infective juveniles, and thousands of them emerge from the dead insect and search for new insect hosts in the soil.

Applying Insect-Parasitic Nematodes

Because these are living organisms special attention needs to be paid to nematode handling, application, and selection of species to match the crop. They need adequate moisture, moderate temperatures, and protection from direct sunlight during application. Their natural home is in the film of water around particles of soil, so commercial formulations of beneficial nematodes are usually soil applied. They should not be sprayed on plant foliage unless specifically formulated for that use.

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Continued on page 5

NEWS FROM MOSES

We were privileged to see several of you at the Organic Farming Conference planning meeting held in La Crosse last week- it is always a fun time, talking with everyone about ideas and plans for the next conference. We at MOSES really value community input on workshop and presenter suggestions, and are grateful for the time commitment of the 30+ individuals that joined us for the meeting.

To ease our planning, for the past few years we have diligently tried to have course topics and presenters tied down for our Organic University courses early in June. You can find a list of the 2009 OU topics (actual titles will come later!) on page 17. When we started the OU several years ago we thought we'd have regular repeats, but we keep coming up with great new ideas for these popular day-long courses- 10 of the 11 offered this year will be new! Check out the great selection and be prepared to decide to attend when you get your Conference flyer in December.

You will read on page 4 the latest news regarding the 2008 floods in WI and IA. Sowing the Seeds, the fund sponsored by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy that collected and dispersed funds last year is no longer available for this kind of funds transfer, the Wedge Co-op has stepped up to the plate to do this important work.

Roger Blobaum offers a close analysis of the impact of the Farm Bill on the organic industry. You will see that we have made some nice gains, though there is still a long way to go toward parity.

It is a summer full of activity generated from the MOSES office-- we have a lot of field days and events that various staff will be attending around the region. See the listing of events on the calendar on page 16. Also visit the MOSES web calendar at <http://www.mosesorganic.org/mosesgeneral/calendar.html> to catch all the latest activities.

We hope to see many of you out on the road this summer, Take care, Jody Padgham

The Latest From the NOSB

By Harriet Behar

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) met for their spring meeting May 20-22, 2008 in Baltimore, Maryland. Barry Flamm was welcomed as a new member in the environmentalist position, replacing Andrea Caroe. He lives in Montana, does international consulting on biodiversity and recently retired from owning an organic apple and cherry orchard.

Barbara Robinson of the USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) gave the National Organic Program report, expressing gratitude for the 100% increase in the NOP budget, bringing the Fiscal Year 2008 to 2.6 million in program funding. The NOP now has three branches: standards review and development, managed by Richard Matthews, accreditation and training, managed by Mark Bradley and compliance and enforcement, which does not yet have a manager. There is currently a call for applications out for this position. Barbara hopes to have 15-16 NOP staff people in the near future. The NOP also has a new website, which follows the same format as the USDA homepage with many items put on the web to create the transparency desired by both the department and the public. This is still a work in progress and the NOP welcomes comments on their website (<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>).

There have been two technical meetings with Canada to work through equivalency before the Canadian organic regulations are implemented at the end of 2008. This is high on the NOP list of things to accomplish. The NOP recently presented Japanese officials with a letter of recognition, with hopes of moving to equivalency between US and Japanese standards. Talks are still ongoing with the EU, with some progress.

The pasture language to be added to the NOP regulation is still going through government clearance. Origin of livestock language is still being written at this time and has not yet started the government clearance process. No information was given to clarify what these future proposed rules may include.

During numerous hours of public comment, the main issues discussed included the need to have both the access to pasture and origin of livestock regulations published, comments on the proposed aquaculture recommendation, and comments on the various materials to be voted upon for crops, livestock and processing. This includes agricultural items to be put on 205.606 (agricultural items not commercially available as organic) as not available as organic. Further discussion on how to determine agricultural versus non-agricultural items, as well as synthetic versus non-synthetic also occurred.



The NOSB hard at work

There was discussion by the NOSB and NOP concerning the use of outside Technical Advisory Panels, (TAP) with the NOP staff stating that the NOSB could perform their own review of materials, without seeking outside technical advice. For the past year, TAP reviews were not done by an outside entity for items requested for 205.606, but for this meeting for the first time, this had been expanded to items that are petitioned for all sections of the National List. The nonuse of non NOSB TAP reviews was tied to lack of NOP budget funds, but this budget shortfall should be less of a problem with increased funding. It is unclear if the NOSB will be accepting the added burden of doing their own TAP reviews, or if they will ask the NOP for outside TAP reviews. It is also unclear if the OFPA (Organic Food Production Act) specifically requires outside TAP reviews, or if the NOSB could do their own reviews as well as voting on the information provided by their fellow NOSB members.

The NOSB recommendation for "multi-site" or "grower-group" certification and the recommendation for verifying organic seed searches were also discussed at length both in public comment and by the NOSB. The vast majority of the public

Continued on page 6

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mosa@mosaorganic.org;
www.mosaorganic.org

MN Organic Crop Improvement Assn. #1
Program Manager: Lorri Ann Hartel
2609 Wheat Ave., Red Lake Falls, MN 56750
218-253-4907; lhartel@prairieagcomm.com

SD Organic Crop Improvement Assn. #1
Chapter Administrator: Wilford Secker
12933 301st St, Selby SD 57472
605-649-6327; wsecker@venturecom.net

WI Organic Crop Improvement Assn. #1
Chapter Administrator: Peggy Linzmeier
5381 Norway Dr., Pulaski, WI 54162
920-822-2629, mnmsgang@netnet.net

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Editor, Jody Padgham.

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Inside Organics

Farm Bill Includes Significant Gains for Organic Farming But Falls Far Short of Achieving an Organic 'Fair Share'

By Roger Blobaum

The five-year farm bill that survived a relentless attack on farm subsidy payments and a Presidential veto before becoming law includes important organic farming advances and improvements and higher funding levels for organic programs. Overall, however, the \$307 billion initiative does not go nearly far enough toward providing a funding "fair share" for organic agriculture.

The biggest overall gain was making funding for important organic programs mandatory, a change that guarantees five years of full funding and eliminates the need to go through the annual appropriations process to get these programs funded. A total of \$22 million in mandatory funding was provided for the main certification cost share program, for example, and \$78 million in mandatory funding was provided for the Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI). The OREI provision, among other things, provides support for development of new and improved seed varieties particularly suited for organic farming.

Annual mandatory funding of \$5 million also was provided for organic data collection by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, and National Agricultural Statistics Service. It provides funding for collecting and distributing comprehensive organic price reports and for surveys and analysis required for reports on organic production, handling, distribution, and retailing. Authorization also was included for additional money through annual appropriations for organic data collection.

Certification Cost Share Money Restored

Most important to organic farmers is the mandatory funding for certification cost share, a \$500,000 per year USDA program established in 2002 that ran out of money four years later. The new \$22 million program provides five years of guaranteed funding to cover up to 75 percent of the cost of certification with maximum annual cost-share eligibility of \$750 per farm. The previous cost share limit was \$500 per farm.

Other gains were made in authorized organic program funding levels that require annual appropriations action. The authorized spending level for the National Organic Program, for example, was increased to \$5 million for Fiscal 2008 with annual \$1.5 million increases to bring the authorization level to \$11 million in Fiscal 2012. The funding increase for the NOP had strong support from organic sector advocates, who urged Congress to provide more funding to the agency to help clear a rulemaking backlog, step up enforcement of the Organic Food Production Act (OFPA), fully implement all provisions of the 1990 law, and assure consumer trust in the organic label.

Other important gains included authorization for \$5 million annually for ATTRA, the national sustainable agriculture information service that lost much of its federal support two years ago, and a new Organic Conversion Program supported with mandatory funding provided to the Environmental Quality Improvement (EQIP) program.

Organic Provisions Avoided Controversy

The fight over farm subsidies that generated negative editorials and headlines over many months made it easier for the bill's organic provisions to stay under

the political radar, avoid controversy, and move forward in both houses of Congress. Organizations supporting the organic provisions had prepared them well in advance and worked together in presenting consensus proposals, representing the organic sector on Capitol Hill, and using targeted "alerts" to mobilize grassroots help when needed.

These organizations did not agree on everything. But they made a special effort to get along, and to rally, and to the extent possible present lawmakers with both new approaches and a united front. The organizations working together included the National Organic Coalition (NOC), Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (SAC), National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture (NCSA), Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF), and Organic Trade Association (OTA). NOC's membership, unlike the others, also includes important national consumer and environmental organizations.

In one change that made a real difference, the House Agriculture Committee for the first time acknowledged organic agriculture's importance by creating a new subcommittee on horticulture and organic agriculture. It is chaired by Congressman Dennis Cardoza of California, an organic caucus member with politically active organic farmers in his district. This subcommittee made history by holding the first farm bill hearing on organic issues since the Organic Foods Production Act was passed 18 years ago.

Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the Senate's leading organic advocate for nearly 20 years, also provided leadership as chairman of the Senate Agriculture subcommit-

tee responsible for legislation dealing with organic agriculture. Organic provisions in the farm bill also had important support from Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa, another organic supporter who chairs the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The bill was so massive that it passed both houses, was vetoed, and had the veto overridden before it was discovered that an entire section of the 670-page bill had been inadvertently dropped at the beginning of this process and was neither voted on nor sent to the President. This embarrassing lapse also suggested that neither the President nor anyone at the White House involved in the veto, or any of the lawmakers who voted for or against the bill, had actually read it. Fortunately the dropped 34-page section did not include any organic provisions.

577 Organizations Signed Support Letter

The vote to adopt the conference report in the House with a veto-proof margin, which required support from a large number of Republicans willing to challenge the President's veto threat, provided the most drama in the long process. A letter signed by 577 organizations, including several organic and sustainable agriculture organizations and sent to all House members before the conference report vote may well have made the difference.

"This is by no means a perfect piece of legislation and none of our organizations achieved everything we had individually requested," the joint letter said. "However it is a carefully balanced compromise of policy priorities that has broad support among organizations representing the nation's agriculture, conservation, and nutrition interests."

Continued on page 9



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More Floods Hit the Midwest

Just when farmers thought they might recover from devastating flood damage caused by heavy rains last August, another set of storms inundated the upper Midwest in May and June this year. Below are several articles of interest relating to the floods and assistance.

Flood Relief 2008

North Country Cooperative Development Fund (NCDF), in partnership with the Wedge Co-op in Minneapolis, is taking donations for flood relief to help Midwest family farms and cooperatives who've been severely affected by flooding.

Why?

Flooding has swamped 3-5 million acres in the Upper Midwest and caused over \$20 billion in damage. Small family farms and co-operatives are often hit harder due to lack of insurance or because they simply fall between the cracks of government disaster relief.

Who is collecting donations?

Minnesota-based Cooperative Disaster Relief Fund (CDRF) is administering flood relief this time around. All donations are tax deductible. (Sow the Seeds, which spearheaded the 2007 flood relief campaign, is not set up for disaster relief this year.)

Who benefits?

Family farms and cooperatives (consumer, producer, worker, etc) can apply for CDRF grants. The application is two pages long and can be gotten from NCDF at <http://ncdf.coop/> or (612) 331-9103. Once approved, funds will be disbursed within 10 business days. More information will also be available on the Wedge website as it becomes available. (<http://www.wedge.coop/>)

How can people donate?

Make checks out to "NCDF" (North Country Development Fund) and be sure to mark it clearly for the "Cooperative Disaster Relief Fund" in the memo space on the check. Checks can be mailed to: NCDF, 219 Main St. SE Suite 500, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Northey Announces Planting Flexibility for Organic Farmers due to Severe Weather

DES MOINES - June 16, 2008 Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey today announced that the United States Department of Agriculture/ National Organic Program (NOP) has accepted a request made by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to grant a temporary variance to the NOP crop rotation requirement due to recent rains and flooding in the state.

"Organic certification requires longer crop rotations. Organic farmers, as well as other farmers, are faced with challenges planting crops this late in the season," Northey said. "This variance will give them much needed flexibility when making decisions on planting this year."

The Department made the request on June 9th in response to the significant and historical rainfalls that have occurred frequently during much of May and June. Consequently, there have been very few opportunities for farmers to complete field work due to saturated soils, flooding and severe weather.

Organic farmers are faced with the challenge of either not planting a cash crop this year to

comply with the crop rotation regulation or planting the same crop, such as soybeans, in a field where that crop was planted last year. This variance will allow organic farmers the flexibility they need to make viable cropping decisions during this extraordinary time.

Organic farmers are committed to organic practices and requirements, such as using no pesticides or fertilizers, and this temporary variance will not affect the integrity of the organic crops that they produce this year.

The Department will continue to work with the Iowa Organic Advisory Council, Iowa Organic Association and the National Organic Program during this time period as it monitors weather conditions impacting Iowa organic producers. Certification organizations operating in the state and organic farmers will be notified of this variance. For more information please contact the Agricultural Diversification and Market Development Bureau at 515-281-5783.

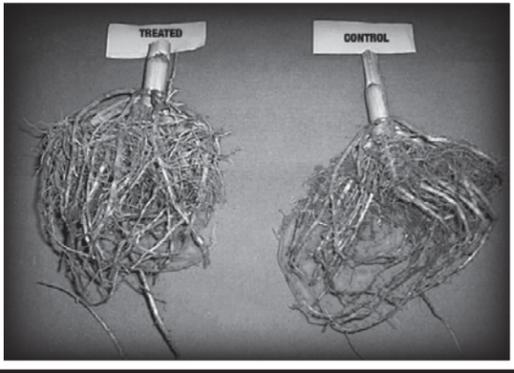
USDA Offers Disaster Assistance

Various federal funding is available for areas hit by natural disasters in several states in the Midwest. In particular, USDA Rural Development has grant and loan funds available to rural communities to provide housing and shelter, public safety, health care and community facilities and business recovery assistance. The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 created an agricultural disaster relief trust fund and a supplemental agricultural disaster assistance program with five facets. For more information on applicable programs, contact your local FSA office or go to <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

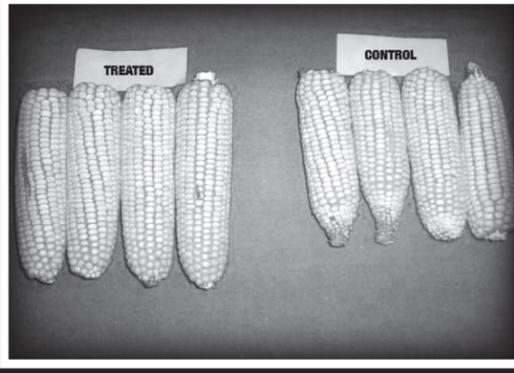



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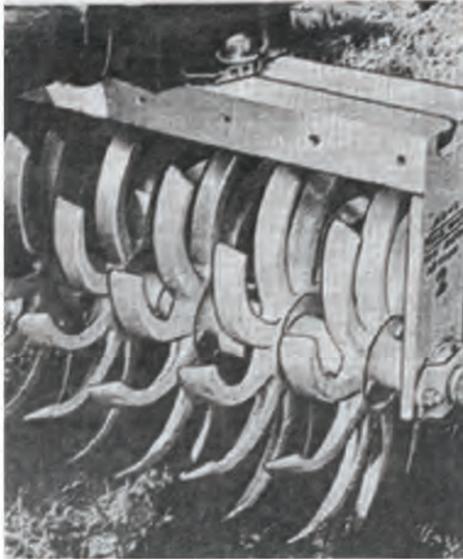
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Nematodes.. from page one

Nematodes are typically applied in water at a rate of about 1 billion per acre, depending on the crop. They can be applied with conventional spraying application equipment, but nozzle filters or screens smaller than 50-mesh will clog and it is best to remove screens in nozzles when applying nematodes with a back-pack sprayer or spray rig. Care should



be taken when using hydraulic pumps that have high internal pressure and high shear force as these will shred the nematodes. Nematodes tend to settle in the tank, so agitation must be provided for uniform application. Nematodes can be killed by excessive tank agitation through sparging (recirculation of a portion of spray mix) or excessive mechanical stirring that is used to keep the nematodes in suspension. Pump pressure above 300 pounds per square inch or temperatures above 85°F will kill nematodes.

It is best to apply nematodes to moist soil in the early morning or late evening when air temperatures are between 60 and 85°F. A pre-application irrigation can be applied to moisten the soil and a post-application irrigation can be applied to wash any nematodes on plant surfaces to the soil surface. The post-application irrigation should be applied before spray droplets dry and must provide a tenth to a quarter inch of water to allow the nematodes to move into the upper soil layers, out of sun or drying air exposure. Applications can be made before or even during a rainfall to wash nematodes to the soil surface.

Successful application of nematodes is influenced by spray volume. Most nematode labels suggest volumes of two to six gallons of spray per 1000 square feet (87-260 gallons per acre). This is achievable for many boom sprayers and lawn shower nozzle sprayers that are equipped with sufficiently large nozzles. Some turf applicators use shower nozzles that deliver 1 to 1.5 gallons of spray per 1000 square feet. When lower spray volumes are used, pre- and post-application irrigation can be adjusted to counteract the problem of low volume sprays and to assist in moving the nematodes to the soil and off exposed surfaces.

Nematodes can also be applied with irrigation. However, some irrigation systems, especially low volume trickle systems, may not move water fast enough to keep nematodes suspended. When in doubt, check periodically by taking a sample at the emitters to determine if live nematodes are being moved through the system.

When Do They Work, and Why?

Success using nematodes for insect control has been mixed. Their effectiveness has been highest in highly controlled systems such as nursery containers and mushroom houses where environmental conditions highly suitable for the nematodes can be maintained. Besides improper conditions, most failures with field applications are due to a poor match between the nematode species and target insect pest.

Using the right kind of nematode for the insect pest you wish to control is critical because nematode species vary in their host range and in their host-finding behavior. Some nematodes are very active in the soil ("cruisers") and search around for a host insect, while some tend to sit and wait

for a host insect to pass by ("ambushers"). Cruiser nematodes will be more effective than ambushers at finding a sedentary insect host, like white grubs. The ambushers are effective at infecting active insect hosts, such as cutworms or mole crickets. Some known appropriate pathogen-host targets are *S. glaseri* against the Japanese beetle; *S. scapterisci* against mole crickets; *S. riobrave* against cutworms and citrus weevils; and *S. feltiae* against sawfly larvae and fungus gnat larvae.

As with any purchased natural enemy, quality of the product can affect efficacy. Quality of the product can be affected by batch, and shipping, storage, and application conditions. Nematodes are living organisms and are subject to destruction by excessive cold or heat, and lack of moisture or oxygen. A small sample of the mixed product should be checked with a hand lens or magnifying glass to observe living, moving nematodes. Nematodes that are very straight and motionless may be dead, and therefore, ineffective.

To learn more about nematodes, visit a great website set up by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, <http://nematode.unl.edu/wormgen.htm>. Here you will find a lot of information, including a diagnostic tool and a nematode species list with pictures!

There are several companies that sell nematodes. You can find them via websearch, and in the MOSES Upper Midwest Organic Resource Directory under "Pest Control Suppliers".

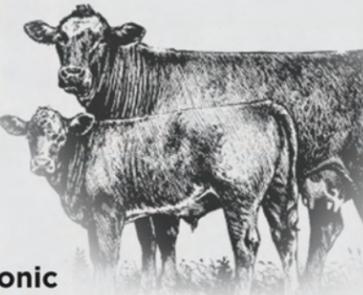
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NOSB.. from page two

making comments did not feel that growers and retailers should be included in the same recommendation, with some feeling there should not be any group certification allowed at all for retailers. Others feel that retailer groups could be allowed, but that the criteria should be different from grower groups. The NOSB recommendation for organic seed search put an additional paperwork burden on both growers and certifiers, and the NOSB is reviewing how best to avoid this in a subsequent proposal. Both of these recommendations were not voted upon at this meeting, with new proposals expected to be put forward at the next NOSB meeting. In addition, the aquaculture recommendation was also sent back to committee for further work, focusing specifically on whether the feeding of non USDA organic fish oil and fish meal to NOP certified organic fish could be allowed. The aquatic plants recommendation was approved with one small change.

As with all items, no materials can be used until they are both approved by the NOSB AND published in the Federal Register by the NOP.

The following were approved for addition to the National List by the NOSB, but have not yet been published.

On the crops list 205.601:

Cheesewax as a production aid in log grown mushroom culture made without either ethylene-propylene co-polymer or synthetic colors.

The following sunset items were voted to be relisted for another 5 years: Copper Sulfate, Ozone gas, Peracetic acid, EPA list 3 inerts for use in passive pheromone dispensers, and Calcium Chloride

On the livestock list 205.603

Parasiticide: Fenbendazole: Only to be used upon written diagnosis of clinical infestation by a veterinarian, prohibited in slaughter stock, allowed in emergency treatment for dairy and breeder stock when organic system plan

approved preventative management does not prevent infestation. Milk or milk products from a treated animal cannot be labeled as provided for in subpart D of this part for 90 days following treatment. In breeder stock, treatment cannot occur during the last third of gestation if the progeny will be sold as organic and must not be used during the lactation period for breeding stock.

Methionine--hydroxy analog calcium (CAS - 59-51-8; 63-68-3; 348-67-4)--for use only in organic poultry production until October 1, 2010. (The previous listing had this item sunset on October 1, 2008.)

On the processed products list 205.605 a and b

205.605a Tartaric acid- made from grape wine
205.605b Tartaric acid-made from Malic Acid

The following sunset materials were voted to be relisted for another 5 years Agar-Agar, Animal Enzymes, Calcium Sulfate, Carrageenan, Glucono Delta Lactone, Cellulose

The following four 205.606 materials (agricultural items not commercially available as organic) were approved by the NOSB.

Alcohol Cooking Wine- Marsala, Alcohol Cooking Wine-Sherry, Pacific Kombu Seaweed (laminaria three species), and Tragacanth Gum (water extracted only).

Pectin, low methoxy, non-amidated was deferred and the petition for oat bran concentrate was withdrawn.

The following items were voted to NOT be included on 205.606. The NOSB felt there had not been enough work done by the petitioners to prove the specific extract could not be made organically, since the raw agricultural commodity was available as organic . Camu Camu Extract Powder, Caramel Color, Chinese Thistle Daisy Root Extract (Ryzome), Condonopsis Root Extract, Ginger Root Extract, Jujube Fruit Extract, Ligusticum Root Extract, Peony Root Extract, Polygala Root Extract, Polygonum Root Extract, Poria Fungus Extract,

Rehmannia Root Extract, and Tangerine Peel Powdered Extract.

Lastly, there was considerable discussion concerning the addition of Okra, IQF (Individually Quick Frozen) on 205.606 as not available as organic, and the NOSB did not vote to include this item on 205.606. The discussion focused on the petitioner working with growers who are close to an IQF facility to grow organic okra to meet the processors needs.

Harriet Behar is the MOSES outreach coordinator, where she promotes, enhances and works to expand organic agriculture through training and networking with farmers, educators and others interested in organic agriculture.

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MOSES Book Review

Weed the Soil, Not the Crop: A whole farm approach to weed management

By Eric and Anne Nordell

Review by Dan Guenther

There is a Chinese proverb that says, "The farmer's footsteps are the best fertilizer." The longer I farm, the more I believe that the farmer's footsteps may also be the best cultivator as well. I've tried nearly every new cultivating tool over the past twenty years only to discover that the weeds seem to anticipate my next move, leaving me repeatedly flat-footed and out-smarted. It has taken me years to learn that weeds are largely responding to the opportunities given to them. Rather than change cultivating tools, I now firmly believe that the necessary changes need to be within my own frame of mind.

A recently published book, **Weed the Soil, Not the Crop**, by Eric and Anne Nordell is proving to be an invaluable resource for helping change my war-like approach to weed control to one of a more holistic understanding of how cultural practices influence weeds. The Nordells are well known for their on-farm research as evidenced by the large crowds they attract at conferences and workshops throughout the country. **Weed the Soil, Not the Crop** is a compilation of a series of articles they have written over a twenty-year period for the Small Farmer's Journal. This series of articles reflects a progression of inquiry that attempts to create a broader context for understanding weed life cycles and the soil conditions within which they thrive.

The Nordell's have a gift for making detailed observations of how the whole farm acts as an organism. They have skillfully learned that

weeds can not be isolated from crop selection and rotation, nutrient management, tillage and overall soil health. Their attention to the whole farm has allowed them to nearly eliminate weed pressure to the point where the two of them can adequately manage weed control in their market garden without the need for off-farm labor.

Weed the Soil, Not the Crop lays out a cropping system that has largely exchanged the need for off-farm inputs with on-farm knowledge. The Nordell's are quick to point out that the cultural practices that they employ can be implemented elsewhere with similar success. This book is essentially an invitation to other farmers to join them in learning from and with each other. In the book the Nordells offer a carefully laid out framework developed from their own experience as a way to inspire our own inquiry and experimentation.

The Nordell's are students of history, and they have a keen understanding of when something worked well and when it needed to be adapted. They have resurrected the age-old practice of summer fallow as the foundation for expressing weeds in an attempt to pattern their crop rotation after the historical crop rotation used by area dairy farmers. They have successfully adapted older horse drawn implements and experimented with using them in new applications such as shallow tillage, minimum tillage and even no-till regimes.

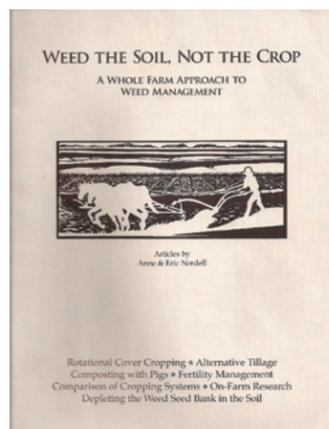
With the artistry of an accomplished baker, the Nordell's have learned to fine tune their soil amendments for optimum crop growth without allowing weeds to feast on excess nutrients in the soil. All of these observations and experiments are supported with extensive rotation calendars, charts and photographs that lay out a detailed process for learning to understand weed control within a greater context.

How lucky we are to be the beneficiaries of their trials and observations. It gives me hope that I might learn to narrow the window of opportunity for the trouble weeds on my own farm. So rather than trying to figure out which new tool will finally solve my weed

control problems, I'm looking forward to using this season to chart a new direction toward a more holistic approach to weed control. **Weed the Soil, Not the Crop** seems to be the best road map for success with weeds that I've ever come upon. I'm indebted to the Nordell's for illuminating the path for me.

Weed the Soil, Not the Crop is available from Anne and Eric Nordell directly at 3410 RT 184, Trout Run, PA. 17771. To order from the Nordells, please include a check for \$13.00 for the booklet (includes S&H). The Nordells also have a DVD available for \$15.00 + \$3.00 shipping & handling.

Dan Guenther and Margaret Pennings own and manage Common Harvest Farm in Osceola, WI. Working with draft horses, they produce over 40 vegetable varieties and fruits on 10 acres for their CSA members.

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General Information on Cover Crops

By Dale R. Mutch, Michigan State University

Cover crops are a key component to sustainable agriculture. The cover crop/IPM program at Michigan State University/W. K. Kellogg Biological Station (MSU/KBS) in Hickory Corners, Michigan provides research and demonstrations on cover crops in several farming systems. Early research/demonstrations primarily focused on incorporating cover crops into field crop (corn, soybean, wheat and alfalfa) systems. In the last four years, we have expanded into cherries, tomatoes, cucumbers, sugar beets, summer squash, zucchini and pumpkins.

Cover crops serve many beneficial purposes for organic farmers. They are especially important for maintaining and improving soil quality. Some other benefits from using cover crops include nitrogen management and weed suppression.

Nitrogen Management

Cover crops can either provide nitrogen for future crops or recycle nitrogen. Good legume cover crops for nitrogen production are red clover, hairy vetch, crimson clover and cowpea.

§ **Red clover** can be frost seeded into small grains such as spelt, wheat or cereal rye in March. A 12 lb/A rate will often provide you with over 100 lbs. of N/A the next season.

§ **Hairy vetch**, a winter annual cover crop, seeded at 30 to 40 lbs/A in August can provide over 100 lbs/A of nitrogen. Hairy vetch can be bulk seeded with shallow incorporation or drilled. It fits best when you are growing a short season crop such as green beans, cucumbers, pickles or small grains. Note: hairy vetch will often re-grow the next season due to hard seed coats.

§ **Crimson clover** is an annual red clover that will winter kill during cold winters (2002-03) or survive the winter if it is mild. If winter killed, crimson clover will produce about 30 to 40 lbs/A of nitrogen. This can be doubled when it survives the winter. Seed crimson clover at 15 lbs/A following a short season such as described above. It can be killed rather easily with tillage.

§ **Cowpea** is a cover crop we are trying to fit into Michigan farming

systems. It is a summer cover crop that will winter kill in Michigan. We have been seeding it at 60 to 80 lbs/A. We do not have enough data yet on the nitrogen produced by cowpea. Potato leafhopper has been an insect problem on cowpea and can stunt its growth. Cowpea should be seeded when there is no risk of frost and when the soils have warmed up. Since it winter kills, no tillage is needed to control it in the spring.

Legume cover crops, as described above, are primarily used to provide nitrogen for next year's crop. Crops such as sweet corn, field corn, leafy vegetables, peppers, tomatoes, etc. will all benefit from legume cover crops grown the prior season.

Sometimes we want to recycle nitrogen to decrease nitrate leaching and runoff from our fields. These cover crops are referred to as non-legumes. They are characterized by being fast growing cover crops. Good recycling nitrogen cover crops are oats, cereal rye, wheat, spelts, buckwheat, oilseed radish and oriental mustard.

§ **Oats** seeded in August at 1.5 to 2.0 bushels/A can recycle about 20 to 30 lbs. N/A. We like to seed oats after a legume crop was grown. Oats establish fast and the roots take up the nitrogen rather than the nitrogen leaching.

§ **Small grains** such as spelt, wheat or cereal rye can be seeded late into the fall (October). These cover crops will recycle more nitrogen in the spring versus fall. If they are being used as a cover crop and you are not harvesting the seed, they should be tilled when they reach 10-15 inches tall.

§ **Oilseed radish** will winter kill. You should seed it in August after a short season crop. It will produce a large root and can recycle up to 40 lbs. of N/A.

§ **Buckwheat** is a rapid growing cover crop, but is very susceptible to frost and cold temperatures. It is a summer cover crop and should be planted at a 50 to



Fall planted oilseed radish

Continued on page 11



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This listing is not an organic certification. Producers need to contact their certifiers for information as to whether these materials may be used in organic production.

Gary Weber, Soil Balancing Service

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Inside Organics from page 3

The 2002 farm legislation was extended several times during the long farm bill struggle and, at times when a threatened veto was discussed and a compromise seemed almost out of reach, it appeared Congress might have to settle for a one-year extension. But Harkin and Colin Peterson of Minnesota, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and the ranking Republicans on these committees refused to give up and finally put together a bipartisan bill that passed both houses by veto-proof margins. This was accomplished only because agriculture, nutrition, and conservation provisions were wrapped up together in the bill.

It is important for organic farmers and others to acknowledge the significant progress made in strengthening federal organic programs included in the farm bill and administered by USDA. But it also is important to note that the overall farm bill effort did not put nearly enough emphasis on the long-term goal of a funding fair share for organic agriculture. The need for a fair share is especially important in organic research, extension, education, economics, and development.

'Fair Share' Concept Pushed

OFRF has been a prominent leader among organizations pushing the fair share concept. "A coordinated strategy for scaling up organic agricultural research and development should provide a mixture of funding methods and programs to gradually to achieve overall 'fair share' spending averaging approximately \$120 million a year," Mark Lipson, OFRF's policy director stated in House Agriculture subcommittee testimony last year.

He noted that current USDA research, extension, and education resources applied specifically to organic agriculture is about \$12 million a year, equivalent to only 0.6% of total USDA spending in these areas. Based on the current 3% organic share of U.S. food retail sales, a fair share of research, education, and education funding would be at least \$80 million in Fiscal 2008. And as the organic market share increases to as much as 10% by 2012, the fair share total would be close to \$200 million in Fiscal 2012.

Surveys as early as the mid-1970s showed lack of organic research was a barrier to adoption of organic methods. Although funding for organic research and education was recommended in a USDA report published in 1980, the first organic research funding was not authorized until 2001. One factor making this difficult was the fact that a research title proposed initially as part of the 1990 Organic Foods Production Act was dropped in a compromise struck to get it through the Senate.

The gains made for organic agriculture in the farm bill are significant. But the funding for research, extension, and other programs fall far short of the high level of support in European countries that has enabled many to set official organic sector goals as high as 10 to 15 percent. The farm bill funding also falls far short of what is needed to reward U.S. organic farmers for the powerful success stories they provide to agriculture and the many public benefits they provide to the public.

It makes no sense to wait until 2012, when another farm bill is proposed, to press again for an organic fair share and other program improvements. The time to start pushing is now. Organic farmers, and the consumers who benefit from and support their efforts, should start by taking advantage of this election year to press candidates from both parties and for every office to commit to improvements needed over the next five years catch up with the Europeans and reach a realistic and achievable 10% organic sector share in this country as well.

Roger Blobaum is an agricultural consultant providing professional services to organic and sustainable agriculture organizations and institutions. Comments on this analysis can be directed to Roger Blobaum at rjblobaum@gmail.com.

Farm Bill 2008 Highlights of the Food Conservation and Energy Act of 2008

- Funding for organic programs was made mandatory, guaranteeing five full years of funding and eliminating the need for annual appropriations
- The Organic Farming Research Foundation, a prominent leader among groups pushing the "Fair Share" concept, lobbied to make funding for organics proportional to that of conventional ag based on percentage of sales
- For the first time, the House Ag Committee acknowledged the importance of organics by creating a new subcommittee on horticulture and organic agriculture

Funding Specifics:

- Organic Research and Extension Initiative - \$78 million (almost five times more than in previous bill)
- Organic Certification Cost Share - \$22 million (almost five times more than in previous bill)
- Conservation Stewardship Program - \$1.1 billion
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program - \$75 million
- Farmers' Market Promotion Program - \$33 million

Key Farm Bill Policy Organizations

Organic Farming Research Foundation
<http://ofrf.org/index.html>

Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
<http://www.msawg.org/>

Land Stewardship Project
<http://www.landstewardshipproject.org/>

Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES)
<http://www.mosesorganic.org>

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Organic Dairy Farmers Ask For Higher Prices

An open letter from NODPA: Deerfield, MA: June 18, 2008. In November 2007

the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers (NODPA) and the Federation Of Organic Dairy Farmers (FOOD Farmers), representing organic dairy farmers across the country, requested a 20% increase above the farmgate price their farmers were paid in 2007 to avert losses and potential bankruptcies. Organic dairy farmers received no increase on their base price from January 2006 to December 2007. From January 2008 to June 2008 organic dairy farmers have received an average increase in their farmgate price of 9% based on their December 2007 price. That is an average of 3.8% per calendar year, approximately 8¢ per gallon per year for the period January 2006 to June 2008.



We need mooore \$\$\$

With organic farmers being hit by weather ranging from historic flooding to drought, conditions are in place for inadequate crop yields and consequently higher feed and fuel costs. NODPA appeals to all processors to listen to their farmers and work with them to increase their base farmgate pay price by a total of 60¢ a gallon to move towards family farm profitability. View NODPA's ad at: (http://www.nodpa.com/in_press_releases_betsy_ad.shtml).

If processors and cooperatives are truly committed to their farm partners and farmer-owners they need to act now.

"What I would like right now is enough of a price increase to cover my increased costs. I need a base farmgate price of \$35 /hundred pounds of milk (\$3 /gallon) to be able to pay our bills,"

says Maine organic dairy farmer and NODPA Treasurer Henry Perkins.

The current farmgate price does not leave farmers with a net income that meets any definition of a living wage for a sustainable future for the next generation. How can this be rectified in tough economic times?

The retail price of organic milk varies by as much as \$2.00 /half gallon depending on where it retails and which brand it is. With that large variation in retail price and an average 20% growth in consumer demand, the future can be profitable for all levels of organic dairy. If the consumer paid an extra 20¢ per half gallon, and the processing company and the retailer gave a few percentage points on their margin, and those increases were passed through to the farmer, organic dairy family farms would be able to pay their bills. (For more information: http://nodpa.com/in_retail_dollar.shtml)

Processors and manufacturers of organic dairy products need to recognize the extreme pressure on the price and availability of purchased organic feed and join with farmers to declare a temporary moratorium on transitioning livestock farms to organic. (For more information on feed prices: http://nodpa.com/feed_prices_june13.shtml)

"Organic dairy farmers are suffering from rapidly escalating costs and the lack of availability of organic feed," says Darlene Coehoorn, Wisconsin farmer and Midwest Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (MODPA) President, "and we need processors to recognize the effect it is having on our families and farms.

While processors are signing on new farmers with bonuses and incentives, they should act responsibly by providing a sustainable future for their existing producers."

Organic dairy producers and their families are dedicated, hardworking and independent with a wide range of skills and a high level of knowledge of the intricacies of organic livestock and crop production. That should not be exploited.

"We want the next generation to see a future in organic dairying and we want more conventional farms to see it as a viable option." says New York organic dairy farmer and NODPA President Kathie Arnold, "Right now, neither of those are realities."

About NODPA (<http://www.nodpa.com/>) The mission of the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance is to enable organic dairy family farmers, situated across an extensive area, to have informed discussion about matters critical to the well being of the organic dairy industry as a whole, with particular emphasis on:

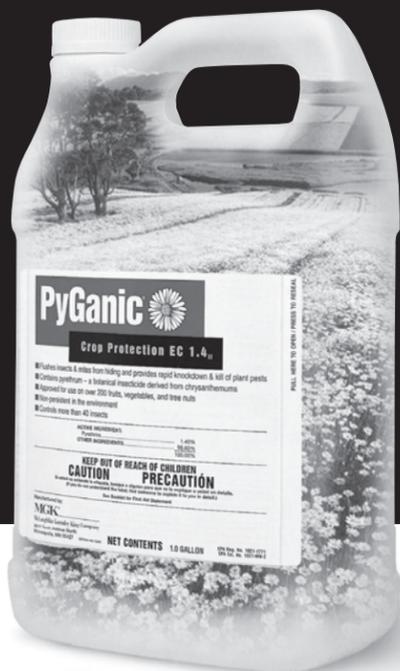
1. Establishing a fair and sustainable price for their product at the wholesale level.
2. Promoting ethical, ecological and economically sustainable farming practices.
3. Developing networks with producers and processors of other organic commodities to strengthen the infrastructure within the industry.
4. Establishing open dialogue with organic dairy processors and retailers in order to better influence producer pay price and to contribute to marketing efforts.

About the Federation Of Organic Dairy Producers (FOOD Farmers)

The Federation Of Organic Dairy Producers is an umbrella group for the three regional organic dairy farmer organizations: Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (NODPA), Midwest Organic Dairy Producers Association (MODPA), and Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (WODPA).

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Cover Crops.. from page 8

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Weed Suppression

Cover crops can improve your ability to manage weeds.

§ **Oilseed radish** seeded at 20 lbs/A in August can reduce weed populations while providing excellent ground cover. Oilseed radish will winterkill in the fall after hard frosts. The cover crop program at MSU/KBS is testing four different cultivars of oilseed radish for influence on weeds, disease and nematodes. Oilseed radish seed is expensive.

§ **Oats** seeded at 1.5 to 2 bu/A in late August for lower Michigan will provide excellent cover, however, will not provide as good of weed control as oilseed radish. If you are further north you want to seed in early to mid August. Oats are susceptible to winter killing so early growth in the fall is important. In the spring, fall-seeded oat ground will be very mellow and easy to work. Oats are inexpensive and easier to find than oilseed radish.

§ **Red clover** can be effective in reducing weeds. Even though it is a perennial, it acts like a biennial and typically succumbs to disease pressure in its second year. Red clover influences weeds more after it has been established. You can clip and mow red clover and it will re-grow so mowing can help you to reduce weeds in your red clover seeding. The cost of red clover varies, however, it generally costs more than oats and less than oilseed radish. Red clover is a legume and it will produce substantial nitrogen as well as reduce weeds. Red clover is most effective when it is frost seeded into small grains in March.

§ **Cereal rye** is a great cover crop for weed control. Cereal rye produces allelochemicals (naturally produced compounds) that control and suppress weeds. Rye can be seeded late fall (October) and still provide excellent cover. Since it is a winter annual, rye will grow very rapid in the spring. Therefore, it must be controlled in the spring or it can grow up to four feet tall. We recommend controlling it with tillage when it is between eight and 15 inches tall. Cereal rye variety "Wheeler" is known to have allelochemicals and it costs more than other rye varieties.

§ **Buckwheat** is a rapid growth cover crop. It needs to be seeded after the risk of frost is over and soil temperatures are warm in the spring. Buckwheat needs to be controlled with tillage at

flowering to avoid seed production and becoming a weed. It has a hard seed coat and will often re-germinate where it has been planted. Seed cost for buckwheat is reasonable.

§ **Hairy vetch** is a legume cover crop that can be seeded in August. It is a winter annual plant that will produce a lot of biomass in the spring. It is also a very good cover crop for nitrogen production. It will compete well with weeds as long as it gets established before the weeds do. It will survive most winters in Michigan. Hairy vetch should be controlled with tillage before it blossoms in the spring. Hairy vetch has a hard seed coat and can become a weed itself in fields where it was planted. Hairy vetch seed is expensive.

§ **Crimson clover** is an annual clover and a legume. It will establish easier and grow faster than red clover. Therefore, it is better for weed control when seeded in

August versus red clover. In Michigan's southern counties, crimson clover will survive most winters. Crimson clover produces nitrogen, but not as much as red clover or hairy vetch. Seed cost for crimson clover is about the same as red clover. Crimson clover is easier to control with tillage than red clover or hairy vetch.

Cover crops are an important component for our farming systems. For more information about cover crops, please check our web page at www.kbs.msu.edu/extension/covercrops

Selected reading

-Cover crop choices for Michigan. MSU Extension bulletin E-2884.

-Cover crop choices for Michigan Vegetables. MSU Extension bulletin E-2896.

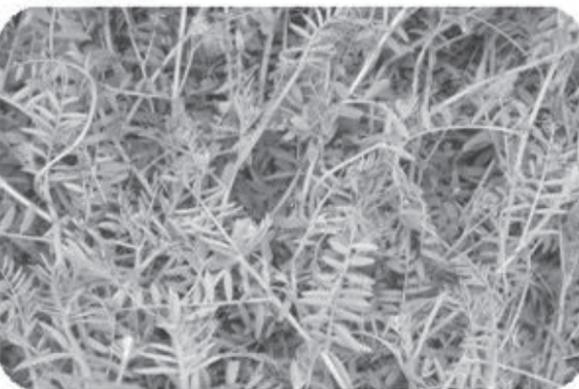
-Managing cover crops profitably. 2nd edition. Sustainable Agriculture Network Handbook Series.

Dale R. Mutch is the MSU IPM Cover Crop/Field Crop Specialist at the Kellogg Biological Station. He can be reached at 269-671-2412, ext.224 mutchd@msue.msu.edu

Reprinted from the New Ag Network electronic newsletter, April 2004.



Buckwheat



Hairy vetch

MIDWEST ORGANIC
& Sustainable Education Service
MOSES

Nominations Sought by September 1, 2008
for

2009 MOSES

"Organic Farmer of the Year" Award

The Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) has issued a call for nominations for the 2009 "Organic Farmer of the Year" award. This noteworthy award is presented to organic farmers who have demonstrated innovation, excellence and leadership in organic agriculture.

The Farmer of the Year award ceremony is a highlight of the annual MOSES Organic Farming Conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Public recognition of exemplary organic farmers is an opportunity to celebrate their successes in organic food production. The past award-recipients have not only been innovative agriculturalists, but also mentors and teachers to many other farmers transitioning to organics.

Do you know deserving organic farmers? Please send us their nominations! We want to recognize their achievements and celebrate excellence in organic farming!

Those who wish to nominate a farmer or farming operation for the award must complete and return the Nomination Application form, available from the MOSES office (715-772-3153) or at www.mosesorganic.org by the deadline of September 1, 2008.



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Cow Dreams By Steve Lucas

I've been wonderin' lately,
While I watched some doggies doze
What cows and calves dream about,
and I would suppose,

They dream of lush green pastures,
with clover belly deep.
And rumens full of grass and milk.
But I wonder when they sleep

If they ever dream of mama,
and getting licked so shiney clean.
And of havin' her watching real close by,
and places they have been?

When they are snorin' are they dreamin'
'bout skies of azure blue?
When they have to sleep in snow or rain
I wonder if it's true,

That they have some trouble sleepin'
and wake up with a fright,
From dreams they can't remember,
But bumped loud in the night?

On hot summer days when they are
stretched out
takin' a siesta in the shade,
Do you think they dream of autumn
And when dreams begin to fade

When mama tries to wake 'em
to take another lap
To the creek to drink some water,
do they still just want to nap?

And cows that spend their lives in
barns and concrete lots,
Do they dream of dirt and trees and hills,
and shady, grassy spots?

So in retrospect, I reckon,
and there is no shame,
In admittin' that cow's and cowboy's
dreams
Are pretty much the same.

Reprinted from the website "Sustainable Farming Connection"- "Where farmers find and share information." <http://www.ibiblio.org/farming-connection/ruralwri/lucas/cow-dream.htm>



Great Website for Organic Livestock Managers

Animal Health and Welfare in Organic Farming Introduction
<http://www.organic-vet.reading.ac.uk/>

A wonderful resource for livestock folks, this website has been produced by members of staff at the Organic Livestock Research Group (OLRG) within the Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics Research Unit (VEERU), University of Reading, UK . The University of Reading has been actively involved in organic livestock research and advice since 1995.

The aim of the compendium is to serve as a resource material and training tool for farmers, advisors, inspectors, veterinarians, organic sector bodies and policy makers on issues related to general and specific animal health and welfare aspects of organic livestock production.

The compendium is divided into five sections. There is a general section on veterinary management of organic livestock that acts as a quick reference point for issues like health planning, prohibited or allowed substances and withdrawal periods after the use of specific medicinal products. The health and welfare of sheep, cattle, pigs and poultry are detailed in four separate sections that form the main body of the compendium. Each species section includes a very detailed and comprehensive disease list, with recommendations for organic prevention and control and treatment measures.

It should be emphasized that the compendium is not intended as a diagnostic or self-help tool for animal health management on the farm. Diagnosis should always be carried out by a veterinary surgeon, in response to problems seen on the farm.

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**Photo Gallery
by Kristi Link Fernholz**

Photos of Carol Ford,
Garden Goddess CSA, Millan, MN,
graduate of the
Land Stewardship Project
Farm Beginnings Program

Fernholz created these photos through her participation in the Rural Women's Project, an innovative new MOSES project designed to raise the voice of women in agriculture and farm-based businesses by providing networking, training and support. The project also aims to increase media and public awareness issues of female farmers and rural entrepreneurs. Each participant created a "Franklin Challenge Grant" project, self-designed to capture the spirit and needs of rural women. Fernholz's photography project visually showcases budding female farming enterprises.

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AG GYPSUM supplies available Sulfur since it is already in the sulfate (SO4) form, which is the only form available in the soil and to the plant. Sulfur is essential to the plant in developing amino acids and proteins and promoting nodulation for N fixation by legumes. It also helps avoid Nitrate toxicity to animals where there is excess N; with a typical guideline of keeping a N to S ratio of 10 to 1.

AG GYPSUM reduces soil compaction since the soluble Calcium serves as a binding agent which "floculates" (or combines) fine soil particles and hummus together. This improves soil aeration and soil structure which allow air movement and plant growth in the soil. It reduces crusting over the soil which improves water absorption and lessens soil erosion. University research has shown rainfall absorption improve from 46% on untreated soils to 71% on the same soils treated with ag gypsum.

AG GYPSUM improves no till soils since it dissolves sufficiently in soil moisture to migrate into the lower depths of the soil to provide Calcium and Sulfur. By contrast, the Calcium in Aglime is not water soluble and must be incorporated into the soil. Research has shown that where AG Gypsum and Aglime are applied together, the gypsum aids the aglime in correcting acidity deeper in the soil.

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E-mail: brpmine@lisco.com**

News Briefs

Organic Dairy Production Videos Available Online

"Farming for the Future" University of New Hampshire lecture series on organic dairy production <http://www.organicdairy.unh.edu/seminars.html> 2 hour video topics available:

- *Organic Standards for Animal Health and Welfare? Act Now Before It's Too Late*
- *Think Like A Cow -Understanding Grazing Behavior*
- *Pasture Management in an Organic Dairy System*
- *Organic Agroecosystem Management for Sustainability: a Below Ground Perspective.*
- *Organic Dairy Farming: Veterinary Challenges and Opportunities*
- *Holistic Herd Health From the Ground Up Sustainability and Profitability of Organic Dairy Farming*
- *What Do Studies Comparing Organic and Conventional Farming Tell Us?*

Understanding and Negotiating Organic Dairy Contracts: New guides available

Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc. (FLAG) has developed two new guides to help farmers understand organic dairy contracts. The articles contain important legal information for dairy farmers interested in selling organic milk to a processor, as well as for those who are already doing so. The first article is called "When Your Processor Requires More than Organic Certification: Additional Requirements in Organic Milk Contracts." The second article is called "Hushed Up: Confidentiality Clauses in Organic Milk Contracts." Farmers may request a copy of one or both articles by calling FLAG's office, 651-223-5400. Both articles are available online <http://www.flaginc.org>.

Gift to Support Organic High Tunnel Research in Southwestern MN

The University of Minnesota Southwest Research and Outreach Center (SWROC) is pleased to announce receipt of a \$20,000 gift from the Cooperative Regions of Organic Producer Pools (CROPP). The gift will aid in the initiation of an outreach and research program at SWROC in the use of high tunnels for organic vegetable production. High tunnels are polyethylene covered, greenhouse-like structures where crops are grown directly in the ground. For more information on the project, contact Kelley Belina, at 507-752-7372 or beli0019@umn.edu

Study Finds Benefits in Drinking Organic Milk

(ATTRA) In a new study, scientists found higher levels of vitamins, antioxidants and "healthy" fat in milk from organically farmed animals. The researchers believe that letting cows graze on fresh grass boosts the nutritional value of their milk. The benefits could include a lower risk of cancer and heart disease. The study, which analyzed production from 25 farms, found that organic milk contained 67 per cent more antioxidants and vitamins than ordinary milk. Scientists at Newcastle University also found organic milk contained 60 per cent more of a healthy fatty acid called conjugated linoleic acid, or CLA9, which tests have shown can shrink tumors. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/2039183/Organic-milk-is-healthier,-says-study.html>

Introduction to High Tunnels Video Available On-line

Earlier this spring, Extension at Purdue, Michigan State, Ohio State and University of Illinois collaborated to present a program about growing vegetables in high tunnels and hoopouses. The program was recorded live and is now available for viewing as a streaming video. The video along with speaker handouts and links to other references is available at <http://tristateorganic.info/> under 'Hoopouses and High Tunnels'.

Ten Public Agencies Join Forces in MN Organic Memorandum of Understanding

A group of state and federal agencies and the University of Minnesota formalized their commitment to Minnesota's organic agriculture sector with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in St. Paul on May 28, 2008. In the MOU, agency heads agreed to share organic information and resources and encourage and support organic research, demonstrations, and field days to showcase production practices, conservation measures, and economic performance. According to the MOU, the signatories agree to work collaboratively to provide assistance to organic producers, processors/handlers, and buyers/consumers in the State of Minnesota. Full press release at <http://organicecology.umn.edu/>

Organic Seed Growers Proceedings Online

The proceedings of the Organic Seed Growers Conference held in February 2008 by the

Organic Seed Alliance are now available online as a PDF file. In addition, individual presentations from the conference are also online as PDF files. http://www.seedalliance.org/index.php?page=Seed_Growers_Conference ATTRA also offers a related publication: Seed Production and Variety Development for Organic Systems http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/seed_variety.html

Ohio State University Releases Organic Transition Guide

Ohio State University's Organic Food and Farming Education and Research (OFFER) Program has released "A Transition Guide to Certified Organic Crop Management". The 74-page guide is designed to explain the rules and realities of organic farming of grains, fruits and vegetables. Topics include steps in the organic certification process, plus Midwest certification agencies; Seed, land use, planting stock, crop rotation and harvesting/handling standards; Pest, weed, disease, crop nutrient and soil fertility management standards; exemptions, exclusions, record keeping, and allowed and prohibited substances. Copies are \$15 each, with checks made payable to OSU/OFFER sent to OFFER Program, 201 Thorne Hall, OSU/OARDC, 1680 Madison Ave., Wooster, OH 44691.

Farmers Advocating for Organics Fund

The Farmers Advocating for Organics (FAFO) fund provides a way for the organic farmers of CROPP Cooperative to identify and support key issues facing organic agriculture. The FAFO Farmer Committee accepts proposals from organizations seeking funding for particular projects or programs dedicated to furthering organic education, organic farming or product research, and advocating for organic standards or policies. FAFO will fund both small and large scale

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projects for \$5,000 - \$50,000 per year. FAFO has also established a Small Grant Fund for individuals and organizations seeking grants for less than \$5,000. Small grant proposals will be reviewed monthly. There are two funding rounds in 2008, with proposal deadlines of June 1 and October 1. <http://www.organicvalley.coop/our-story/farmer-fund/farmers-advocating-for-organics-fund/>

Resource on Local Food Laws Available

(ATTRA) The National Agricultural Law Center has recently completed a "Reading Room" for local food systems. The reading room features a comprehensive compilation of electronic resources and articles on law topics that pertain to local food systems. The web site features readings on major statutes, regulations, law decisions, research reports, and other resources. <http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/readingrooms/localfood/>

New Publication on Growing Organic Garlic

"Garlic: Organic Production" now available from ATTRA. http://attra.ncat.org/calendar/new_pubs.php/2008/04/11/garlic_organic_production

New Farmers' Guide to Disaster Assistance Available

Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc. (FLAG) announces that the sixth edition of its book, Farmers' Guide to Disaster Assistance, is now available. This resource has been thoroughly revised and updated for farmers who are struggling in the face of natural disaster, and for farmers who want to learn more about the disaster assistance programs included in the 2008 Farm Bill. Included is an easy-to-use chart that provides an overview of federal disaster assistance for farmers.

Individual chapters provide detailed descriptions of programs offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (including housing assistance and disaster unemployment), federal crop insurance, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP), the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), disaster assistance programs for livestock producers, Emergency Loans from the Farm Service Agency, the Disaster Set-Aside program for existing loans from Farm Service Agency, Small Business Administration disaster loans (including both home and business loans), as well as brief discussions of bankruptcy and federal income tax issues as they relate to losses caused by natural disaster. A new appendix addresses considerations unique to organic farmers.

The book can be downloaded by chapter at no charge from FLAG's website. A bound copy of the book is available without cost to financially distressed Minnesota farmers by calling 1-877-860-4349. For other persons, the charge is \$40 per book, and orders can be placed by calling FLAG's office at 651-223-5400 or by visiting the FLAG website at www.flaginc.org. The book is also available on CD for \$10.

Buckwheat Cover Crop Handbook Available

From Cornell University. Details on how to use buckwheat as a cover crop for vegetable production, with strawberries, as a nurse crop for summer forage seeding and more. How to protect in the winter, seeding rates and more. 17 pages. Copies available for \$2.50, <https://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/store/catalog/> or by calling 315-787-2248.

UNH Receives \$380,000 Grant to Study Organic Dairy

University of New Hampshire researchers have received a signifi-



New Crop Insurance Resource for Organic Farmers

MOSES, in partnership with the USDA Risk Management Agency, has created a new webpage as a resource for organic farmers interested in exploring federal crop insurance protection.

Historically, federal crop insurance has not been especially useful to organic producers, as indemnities (compensations) have been tied to conventional rather than organic prices. However, new insurance offerings now available in Wisconsin and Minnesota, Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) and Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite) are based on whole farm income, and thus can include any losses of organic premium.

To learn more about AGR-Lite and other federal crop insurance products useful to organic farmers, visit the new MOSES "Crop Insurance for Organic Farmers" webpage at <http://www.mosesorganic.org/cropinsurance.html>. On the page you will find a summary of how insurance can work for you, links to fact sheets from MOSES and others describing the AGR-Lite program, articles and stories about people that have used AGR-Lite in organic systems, and a link to a finder for insurance agents that sell federal crop insurance. If you don't have access to the web but are interested in learning more about federal crop insurance, call the MOSES office at 715-772-3153 and we can send you a fact sheet with details.

cant grant to study UNH's organic dairy research farm as a sustainable closed agroecosystem, exploring viable strategies for energy independence. The 3-year grant from the U.S.D.A. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Service (SARE) aims to explore whether closing energy and nutrient cycles could help small dairy farms in the Northeast survive economic vulnerabilities.

Aurora Organic Dairy Foundation Gives \$500,000 for New Research

(Organic Business News) More than \$500,000 over a 3-year period is being donated to Colorado State University for new research on animal welfare, veterinary medicine, growing perennial forage crops and optimizing soil fertility for organic pasture development in the Rockies. The research involves three CSU departments and will help students enrolled in CSU's Organic Agriculture Certificate Program with scholarship and hands-on learning. The money was donated by the Aurora Organic Dairy Foundation, as offshoot of Aurora Organic Dairy.

Organic Farming Conference 20th Anniversary- 2009! Share Your Organic Conference Stories

Fun stories, memories, photos, songs, poems, more!

MOSES plans to compile a booklet documenting all the good times we've had in 20 years of gathering to learn and share about organic agriculture.

Do you have something to contribute? We hope so!

Contact Jody at jody@mosesorganic.org with your contribution by December 1, 2008.

Questions? Contact Jody at 715-667-3203 or 715-772-3153.

You may also send contributions to MOSES, c/o Jody PO Box 339, Spring Valley, WI 54767

Calendar of Events

Visit the MOSES online calendar of events for the latest activities! www.mosesorganic.org and click on "Event Calendar"

July 1 – **MOSES Organic Watershed Project-Organic Livestock Feed Production Field Day** - Cuba City, WI 1:00p.m. - 4:00 p.m. FREE Learn how Keith Wilson operates his well integrated dairy farm and grows soybeans, corn, oats, peas, barley, succotash, wheat and alfalfa. This half-day session is for all farmers who are interested in organic and sustainable farming practices. More info and to Pre-Register: email Jessica Tupa at jessica@mosesorganic.org or call 715-772-3153.

July 10 - **Southwest Research and Outreach Center Field Day** - Lamberton, MN, FREE Join the University of Minnesota, Lamberton location for an exiting field day. Tour their facility and learn from Jeff Moyer, from the Rodale Institute Research Farm, as he discusses no-till organic production. Walter Goldstein from the Michael Fields Institute will talk on breeding high methionine corn. Also, U of M faculty will be presenting current research projects. You will also be able to see demonstrations from a on-farm oilseed press and roller/crimper. <http://organicecology.umn.edu/>

July 11, **SFA Western MN Chapter Friday Farm Tour** At Pastures A' Plenty Farm, Kerkhoven, MN. Each Friday Farm Tour begins with a Potluck supper, and proceeds into an evening filled with a farm tour, great networking, conversation...and activities for children under 10 years of age. Call 320-760-8732 for more information

July 15 - 17 **-Wisconsin Farm Technology Days** - Greenleaf, WI MOSES will be staffing a booth in the exhibit tent area, stop by, say hello and pick up free information or purchase books on organic agriculture. More info: visit www.wifarmtechnologydays.com

July 17-18, **Organic Winegrowing Conference**, Rutherford, California. Napa Valley Grapegrowers annually presents the only all-organic conference in the wine industry. For more info <http://www.napagrowers.org/owc.html>.

July 18-20 **Seed Savers Exchange 28th Annual Convention**, Decorah, Iowa, Featuring Lynne Rossetto Kasper, Rich Pirog & John Swenson, 563-382-5990; www.seedsavers.org

July 20, 9:00am – 4:30pm **Intro to Permaculture Farming**, At Mark & Jen Shepard's farm, Viola, WI & Dave & Erin Varney's farm, LaFarge, WI. For more information visit: www.midwestpermaculture.com.

July 22 – **MOSES Organic Watershed Project-Organic Livestock Feed Production Field Day** - Goodhue, MN 1:00p.m. - 4:00 p.m. FREE Field days are held at certified organic farms where experienced organic farmers will showcase their farming operations and offer tours of their fields. Each half-day session is for all farmers who are interested in organic and sustainable farming practices. Join us as we learn how Jon Luhman operates his beef and lamb farm. More info and to Pre-Register: email Jessica Tupa at jessica@mosesorganic.org or call 715-772-3153.

July 26-27 - **Kickapoo Country Fair** - La Farge, WI Great music, a variety of organic food, activities for children and a chance to learn homesteading skills are all a part of this festival celebrating organic agriculture. This event will be a showcase of rural cultural traditions, farm and garden exhibits, music, dance, arts, natural and organic foods and cooking, green housing and renewable energy, community health and education, environmental responsibility, and eco-development. More info: visit www.organicvalley.coop/kickapoo

Aug 1-2 **Grazefest Minnesota 2008** Seven Pines Farm Kent & Linda Solberg, Verndale, MN. MiddMinn Dairy, Dan Middendorf, Bluegrass, MN. Keynote Speaker: Joel McNair. Bus tours on Sat. www.sfa-mn.org

August 4-8 - **North American Prairie Conference** - Winona, MN Cost: \$150. Sessions dealing with agriculture, soil management, and prairie restoration for biofuel production hosted by Winona State University. To Register: See <http://www.winona.edu/NAPC/>

August 5-7 - **Farm Fest** - Redwood Falls, MN Cost: \$7 Stop by the MOSES Booth to pick up free information or purchase books on organic agriculture. More information: visit www.farmshows.com

August 16 - **Vegetable Field Trials** - Madison, WI Harriet Behar, Outreach Coordinator for MOSES, will be present to answer questions about organic production and certification. Where: West Madison Research Station, 8502 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI. More info: email Judith Reith-Rozelle at jreithrozell@wisc.edu or call 608-262-2257.

August 16 - **Minnesota Garlic Festival** - Howard Lake, MN Cost: \$5. The premier event for lovers of garlic and good times, promoting gourmet garlic farming in Minnesota. More info: See <http://www.sfa-mn.org/garlicfest/index.html>

August 19 - **Midwestern Bio-Ag Field Day** - Clyde, WI 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. FREE Join us for a field day on Otter Creek Organic Farm & Bio-Ag Learning Center, 2008 MOSES Farmer of the Year Award winner; Educational presentations on biological farming, crops, forages, dairying & livestock; test plots, booths, guest speakers, tillage & composting demos, farm walk & more; Join farmers from around the US & the world. Learn about biological farming systems at the Midwestern Bio-Ag Field day. More info: <http://www.midwesternbioag.com/or> call 800-327-6012.

August 26-28 - **Farm Progress Days** - Boone, IA Cost: Adults \$10 MOSES will be staffing a booth, there are 75 acres of exhibits at this major farm event. More information: visit www.farmprogresss-how.com.

September 20 – **MOSES Organic Vegetable Field Day** - Wrenshall, MN 1:00p.m. - 4:00 p.m. FREE Join us at John and Jane Fisher-Meritt's organic vegetable farm. You will learn about their energy efficient root cellar, along with the fall organic vegetable crop production. Field days showcase farming operations and offer tours of their fields. Each half-day session is for all farmers who are interested in organic and sustainable farming practices. More info and to Pre-Register: email Jessica Tupa at jessica@mosesorganic.org or call 715-772-3153.

**February 26-28, 2009
La Crosse, Wisconsin
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20th Annual ORGANIC FARMING CONFERENCE



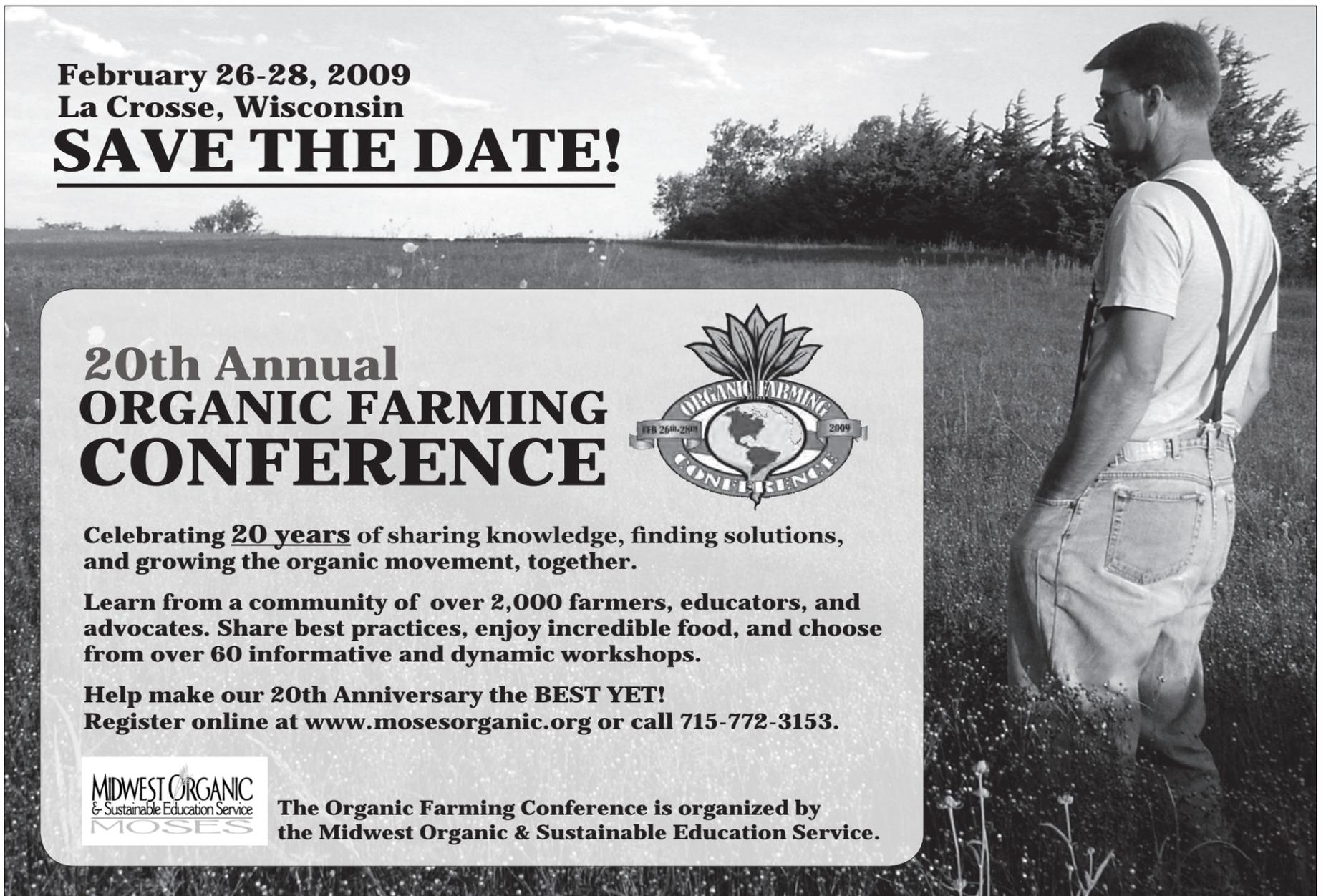
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The Organic Farming Conference is organized by the Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service.



Upper Midwest Organic Grain & Feedstuffs Report

The USDA Ag Marketing Service has been collecting and reporting organic grain and feedstuffs prices for the last several months via bi-weekly emails. The notices are full of interesting information. You may subscribe to receive the electronic reports by emailing Ami Dittmer, Organic Market Reporter at Ami.Dittmer@usda.gov. A copy of the most recent Midwestern report is shown below.

Des Moines, IA Wed, Jun 18, 2008
USDA Market News
Weighted Average Report for the Week Ending
06/14/08 (Bi-Weekly)

Organic grain and feedstuff prices were steady on light demand and offerings.

Excessive rainfall and flooding are the focus points right now. Producers are still planting organic corn but most will not continue beyond this week. There are still a few weeks left to plant organic soybeans. There is some drying going on allowing producers to get back into the field. According to the most recent data from the USDA, the corn crop is rated at 57 percent good to excellent, compared to 60 percent last week and 70 percent a year ago. The soybean crop is rated 56 percent good to excellent, compared to 57 percent last week and 65 percent a year ago. On June 13, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey, announced that the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) has accepted a request made by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to grant a temporary variance to the NOP crop rotation requirement due to the recent rains and flooding in Iowa. Northey recognizes that organic farmers are committed to organic requirements, such as not using pesticides, and this temporary variance will not affect the integrity of the organic crops they produce this year. Monthly and first quarter average prices located below. All prices FOB the farm and negotiated spot market.

Monthly and Quarterly Organic Prices (FOB, price per bushel, weighted average)

	May 08	Apr 08	May 07	1st Qtr 2008
Food Grade Corn				
Feed Grade Corn	10.49	10.26	7.19	10.17
Food Grade Soybeans	29.72	28.59	16.65	23.88
Feed Grade Soybeans	23.41	26.79	14.42	23.58
Food Grade Oats				
Feed Grade Oats			3.54	4.85
Feed Grade Barley		8.00	5.18	7.92
Food Grade Wheat		25.00		17.14
Feed Grade Wheat		15.75		
Feed Grade Rye				11.00
Feed Grade Peas		13.50	7.25	

Developed in partnership with the University of Minnesota, Endowed Chair in Agricultural Systems, School of Agriculture.

Source: USDA Market News Service, Des Moines, IA Phone: (515)284-4460
Email: desm.lgmn@usda.gov

24 Hour recorded market information 515-284-4830 www.ams.usda.gov/LSMarketNews

Organic University

2009 Organic University TOPICS List (exact titles of courses yet to be determined). Plan to come to La Crosse, WI on Thursday February 26, 2009 for day-long intensive courses. Detailed course descriptions and registration materials will be mailed in late November, and available on the MOSES website at www.mosesorganic.org.

Organic Farm Startup (presenters: Amy Bacigalupo- Land Stewardship Project, Paul Dietmann-DATCP-WI Farm Center)

Advanced Organic Dairy- Cow Care (presenters: Dr. Paul Detloff DVM, Dr. Richard Holliday DVM)

Native Pollinator Management and Natural Beekeeping (presenters: Eric Mader -Midwest office Xerces Society, Madison, WI, Ross Conrad- author - Natural Beekeeping, Middlebury VT)

Biodynamic Farming (presenters: Jim Fullmer- executive director Demeter and biodynamic farmer, Oregon, Janet Gamble- Michael Fields Agricultural Institute)

Advanced Tree Fruit Issues (Speakers not yet confirmed)

Organic Grazing Strategies (presenters: Jim Munsch, Deer Run Farm, Art Thicke)

Roots Demystified (presenter: Robert Kourik, author Roots Demystified)

Successfully Growing Small Grains and Forages (presenters: Klaas and Mary-Howell Martens, farmers and grain mill owners, NY)

High Tunnel Season Extension (Speakers not yet confirmed)

Weeds and Soil: Diversified Market Farming (Speakers not yet confirmed)

Tillage and Cover Crop Options (Speakers not yet confirmed)

5th Annual Kickapoo Country Fair

\$5 per Day Kids 12 & Under and Seniors FREE!

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(event schedule, map, camping & lodging options, local recreation & area attractions)



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Mark your calendar! Plan to join us at the 17th annual

Midwestern Bio-Ag Field Day

Tuesday, Aug. 19

visit the 2008 MOSES Organic Farm of the Year

Educational presentations on biological farming, crops, forages, dairying & livestock: test plots, booths, guest speakers, tillage & composting demos, farm walk & more: Join farmers from around the US & the world. *All activities Free, including Lunch*

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Otter Creek Organic Farm,

(on Wis. Hwy 130, 15 mi. north of Dodgeville or 5 mi. south of Lone Rock)

More details: www.midwesternbioag.com

Midwestern Bio-Ag
Mineralized Balanced Agriculture

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MOSES, P.O. Box 339, Spring Valley, WI 54767; (715) 772-3153; broadcaster@mosesorganic.org The editor reserves the right to refuse any ad.

EQUIPMENT

For Sale: Miscellaneous 4-row equipment. Call 641-752-8407.

For Sale: Howard 5 shank subsoiler, Kewaunee 14 ft disc, Schultz 12 ft stalk chopper, \$350. 2 barge power wagons & 1 barge hydraulic dump wagon. NI trailer mower, model #30. Allis slatted 4 bottom mounted plow. Call Jim at 715-255-9236.

For Sale: JD No. 45 2-16 three-point plow, \$450; JD No. 52 2-12 trip plow on steel wheels, \$350; JD No. 400 three-point 15 foot rotary hoe, \$650. Fabian Skretta. Minden, Iowa. 712-485-2440.

For Sale: JD 55 square back combine with JD 303 engine, cab & 235 cornhead. Unit in excellent original condition. Always stored inside. Field ready or collectible. Martha Stochl. Toledo, IA. 641-751-8382.

For Sale: 8 wide IHC folding planter w/Yetter row units, excellent condition, \$2000; 8 wide IHC cultivator on folding bar, \$1,500. Other wide row equipment for sale. Call Earl at 515-370-3833.

Wanted: 6-row weed flamer. Dale Dyko. Xenia, OH. 937-372-7411.

Wanted: Chisel plow. 3 or 4 shank with 3 point hitch. 262-882-4084.

LIVESTOCK

Custom raising of poultry. Let us help you keep your customers satisfied with pastured broilers and turkeys. Our experience is the key to our consistent quality. Processed birds available now. Certified organic (MOSA) or natural-raised. Tilth Farms. 608-489-3201.

For Sale: MOSA certified organic butcher hogs. Available year round, live or butchered. Certified butcher - buyer pays butcher fee. \$1.50 / lb hanging weight approx. 200 lbs. Contact Joni Mullet, W 3699 Heritage Road, Markesan, WI 53946.

For Sale: 6 certified organic beef cows with calves born in April. Gerald Zilmer. 320-254-3395 or gmzilmer@willmar.com.

For Sale: 9 beef cow/calf pairs. Calves are all organic, not cows. Also 5-8 bred cows for fall calving. 2 bulls with good genetics. All cows and bulls are not organic, but all calves are organic. Call 563-880-2672 or 563-245-1085.

For Sale: 45 head of organic beef steers and heifers. 1/2 Rotokawa cross calves 450 to 650 lbs. Little Falls, MN. 320-630-4156.

For Sale: 2 Normande/Angus second calf cows certified organic with MOSA. Bred to Normande. Call 608-463-7512.

For Sale: 200 OCIA certified organic Black Angus feeder calves. Choice of steers or heifers. Bill Bickel. Trail City, SD. 605-845-3045.

For Sale: 2 registered breeding age Jersey bulls; one is 18 months, the other is 3 years old. MOSA certified. Grass fed. Benjamin Gotschall. Atkinson, NE. 402-783-2353.

For Sale: Organic registered Ayrshire bull calves for sale. Danika Wehling. 608/634-6321.

For Sale: 44 OEFFA certified organic dairy cows. 30 Holstein at \$2,000/each and 14 Normandy Holstein cross at \$1,500/each. All lactation. Shipshewana, IN. 260-463-1515.

For Sale: 1 springing heifer, Jersey/Holstein cross. Call Mike Noble, Kenyon, MN: 507-789-6679.

For Sale: Jersey, Holstein and crossbred cows and springing heifers. Gene Gergen. Osakis, MN. 320-859-2020.

For Sale: Herd of 23 Holstein cows. Milking 64 lbs a day SCC 100,000. MOSA certified. Ron Heebink. Baldwin, WI. 715-684-2455 or 715-977-0602.

For Sale: 30 certified organic Holstein cows. 10 certified organic Holstein-Red Carrier open heifers. Closed herd for 30 years, too many. 18,200 rolling herd average with 132,000 SCC, 4.2% BF, 3.1% protein pasture based w/TMR. F&M Organic Farms, LLC. Delhi, IA. Katie at 563-920-7108 or 563-920-1390.

For Sale: Cross bred heifer calves, 1-2 weeks old, as born throughout the summer. From a grazed herd. MOSA certified. 507-523-2048.

Wanted: 10 early lactation or close up dairy cows or heifers. Prefer larger breed. Call Sue at 715-943-2088 or 715-904-0715.

FORAGES

For Sale: Taking orders for '08 certified organic grass/mixed hay. Also have '07 1st year transitional small square bales of straw. Call Jim at 715-255-9236.

For Sale: Irrigated new 1st crop transitional organic alfalfa rye mix off of field in 3' x 3' x 8' square bales in early June. 2nd & 3rd crop available. Stevens Point area. \$175/ton. 715-592-4468.

For Sale: Organic alfalfa/grass hay right out of the field. \$4 per small square. Cro Baker. Amery, WI. 715-268-9811.

For Sale: Certified organic alfalfa hay. 3x3x8 square bales. Protein 18-21%, tdn 66-68%, rfv 155-181. Stored inside. Krumm Farm, Strasburg, ND. Call 701-336-7644, or email jdkrumm@bektel.com.

For Sale: High quality alfalfa baleage. 2008 cuttings available for purchase "on the field" or we will wrap and store for later pickup. 2007 test results available. Lock in your forage needs at prearranged fixed prices! Westby WI. Call Charley at 608-634-3860, or Tom at 608-634-2118 for details.

For Sale: MOSA certified barley, rye or wheat straw. Big round or squares. Pechacek Organics, Prescott, WI. 715-262-5115.

GRAINS

For Sale: Widest independent selection of certified organic seeds at lowest possible prices delivered within WI. Sourced from Albert Lea Seed House, American Organics, Barenbrug, Blue River Hybrids, Byron Seeds, DLF Organics, Prairie Hybrids, Welter Seed & Honey Co., and more. All from your #1 certified organic seed supplier. Golden Grains, Sparta, WI. Ph: 608-269-5150; Fax: 608-269-2150.

HAVE PRICES ON YOUR MIND?

On-line organic grain and feed price reporting services are available to help you track market trends.



Weekly Upper Midwest Organic Grain and Feedstuffs Report from USDA Ag Marketing Services www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw_gr113.txt

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For Sale: Certified organic rolled roasted soybeans. Also buying organic feed grade soybeans. Andersen Feeds, Inc., Galesville, WI 54630. 608-582-2595.

For Sale: approx. 450 bushels 2007 ear corn. MOSA certified. Readstown, WI. Call 608-770-3106.

For Sale: Corn, soybeans, oats, rye & hairy vetch, hay, extruded and/or expelled soybean meal. 2008 crop, ICO certified. Ernest Blosser. 815-438-2174 or 815-590-2174 cell.

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MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: Pint sized plastic clam shells – 25 cases – cheap! Call Shannon at 712-830-2212.

Weeds are a product of poor soil environments. The book "Weeds and Why They Grow" lists over 800 weeds and factors encouraging their growth. Other control tips included. 116 pgs, \$25 postpaid. McCaman Farms, PO Box 22, Dept OG, Sand Lake, MI, 49343-9554. 800-611-2923.

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OPPORTUNITIES

For Sale: 155 acre organic dairy farm, w/approx 115 tillable. 42 tie stall barn w/pipeline, plus many clean exceptional buildings, everything functional. Beautiful 3 BR ranch style home, nice location. Located 5 mi. NE of Cashton. Call Alverda Wiedemann at 608-654-7336.

For Sale: Organic dairy farm with 174 acres, 150 tillable. Two story, 49 lever station barn, 3 pens, mats, manger liner, pipeline, 600 gallon bulk tank, manure pit, 2 silos, feed bin, 2 sheds, 4 bedroom house with 1 1/2 baths. Machinery and livestock available. Greg Murphy. Thorp, WI. 715-669-7222.

For Rent: 10 acres organic pasture, near Amery, WI. Cro Baker. 715-268-9811.

For Rent: 2008 hay ground. Up to 55+ acres MOSA certified alfalfa/grass hay to be put up on share basis. Readstown, WI. Terms negotiable. Call 608-770-3106.

Wanted: Seasonal Farm Educator. We've had an overwhelming response to our spring and summer programs, and are hiring for additional seasonal farm educator positions. If you or someone you know loves working with children, nurturing the soil and plants, and being active outdoors, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Learning Farm manager, Nicole Jain Capizzi, at ncapizzi@prairiecrossing.com or 847-548-4062 x 14.

Wanted: Michigan (Fowlerville) organic grass based farmer, sheep and or beef, poultry, orchard 350 acre farm, salary, BC/BS benefits. Call SuzAnne 517-548-2447 or e-mail chazmaven4545@yahoo.com.

Wanted: Organic farmers interested in hosting foreign students. 1-4 week hosting sessions. Vernon & Crawford counties, Wisconsin. \$150/student/week. Clovis Siemon. 608-386-8161 or email littlecountryschool@gmail.com.

Wanted: Garden Education Specialist and Farm Manager. Nature's Classroom Institute, an environmental education school situated on a 400 acre campus in SE WI, is looking for a dedicated person to be in charge of planning, marketing and overall operations of the garden. A love of children and an ability to relate to children and adults in an educational setting is a must. We will train the candidate in our teaching methodology. A good working knowledge of horticulture and agricultural techniques as well as a basic background in organics and biodynamics is required. We will offer a U.S visa, housing, a stipend and transportation to and from the site. The position starts April-May 2008 and goes till September or beyond. Send a resume and cover letter to geoffrey@nciw.org or call 262-363-6820. Our website is www.nciw.org.

South Dakota OCIA Chapter #1
Organic Certification



Chapter Administrator: Wilford Secker
12933 301st St, Selby SD 57472
605-649-6327; wsecker@venturecomm.net



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Minnesota OCIA
Chapter #1

Organic Certification

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