



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Organic Dairy and Animal Health Field Day to be held
near Lewiston, MN on June 8th**

Organic dairy farmers rely on healthy soils and a high forage diet based in pasture to produce high quality milk. On Tuesday June 8th from noon to 3 PM, MOSES and the Land Stewardship Project will cosponsor a free farm tour open to the public at Dale and Carmene Pangrac's and Kim and Andy Olson's farm near Lewiston MN.

Dr. Paul Detloff DVM, an internationally known veterinarian and author, and staff vet for Organic Valley, will give a short workshop on "Reading the Bovine Hair Coat to Assess Animal Health", providing dairy and beef cattle producers a visual tool to aid them in judging the glandular and general health of their animals. Dr. Paul will also be present to answer questions on prevention and maintenance of animal health using practices and inputs approved for organic production.

Dale and Carmene's Prime Pastures Organic Dairy focuses on providing high quality pastures for their organic dairy cattle as well as growing organic livestock feed crops such as barley, corn and hay. Good pasture management, weed management and building balanced healthy soils will also be emphasized as they relate directly to high quality milk and healthy cows. Mike Lovlien, senior staff soil consultant of Midwest Bio Ag in Utica MN, will be present to answer questions about maintaining and building soil fertility on an organic farm.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service cost share funds which can aid farmers in transitioning to organic or improving their current organic operation through EQIP, these include pasture improvements such as rotational grazing, animal walkways and putting in water lines, as well as planting cover crops, improving crop rotations and more. There will be personnel present to discuss these items with interested producers.

The Pangracs are well-known for their high quality grazing operation of crossbred cows in addition to the growing of organic small grains, hay and corn on their 450 acres. Two generations work together on their farm, experimenting and improving their crop and dairy operation each year. Kim and Andy Olson, the next generation, will be leading the farm tour along with Dale and Carmene.

Based in Spring Valley, WI, MOSES (Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service) works in partnership with farmers, organizations, and government agencies to organize its organic farm field days. These sessions are open to all farmers and agricultural professionals who are interested in organic and sustainable farming practices. Free resources on organic production will be available to all attendees and snacks will be served.

To pre-register and for directions to Prime Pastures Organic Dairy, call or email the MOSES office at 715-778-5775 or info@mosesorganic.org. For more information, you can also go to the MOSES web site at www.mosesorganic.org and click on our calendar of events.

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