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**Governor Doyle Recognizes Nation's Largest
Organic Farming Conference**

LA CROSSE, Wis., Feb. 27 -- Governor Jim Doyle issued a proclamation today recognizing the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) for its valuable contribution to organic agriculture in Wisconsin. The recognition is on the occasion of its 20th annual Organic Farming Conference, the nation's largest. Nationally, Wisconsin ranks second in total organic acreage and number of organic farms.

Secretary of Agriculture Rod Nilsestuen presented an award to MOSES Executive Director Faye Jones before an estimated 2,500 conference attendees.

"MOSES has been a key part of the growth of organics in Wisconsin," Nilsestuen said. "Now we have an 80 million dollar business and over 1,200 organic farmers and we're number one in organic dairy, and second only to California in number of acres. "

The official proclamation reads:

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin is home to the second largest number of organic farms in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's more than 1200 certified organic farmers contribute over \$80,000,000 to the State's agricultural economy; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's 143,000 acres of organic farmland contribute to protecting the State's land and water quality and other natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service has been a valued partner and has provided leadership in support of organic agriculture in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service is celebrating twenty years of providing outstanding educational resources for Wisconsin farmers, including sponsoring the largest organic farming conference in North America;

Now, therefore, I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, recognize MOSES' contributions to organic agriculture and hereby make this commendation on the occasion of the 20th annual MOSES Organic Farming Conference.

MOSES is a 501(c)3 education-outreach organization working to promote sustainable and organic agriculture. It serves both veteran and converting organic farmers who strive to produce high-quality, healthful food using organic and sustainable techniques.

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