



Dear Friend,

On behalf of the MOSES board of directors and staff, I send you fall harvest greetings! Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Darlene Coehoorn, a member of the MOSES Board of Directors, and a dairy farmer from Rosendale, Wisconsin. My husband, Dan, and I have a 50-cow organic dairy, and raise about 500 acres of organic hay and diverse crops, including corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, rye, oats and sweet corn and peas as canning crops. As a family, we have learned so much from our connections to MOSES over the years. **We are grateful to MOSES for its work, and I'm writing to ask you to join us in supporting MOSES this year.**

In 1989 we moved to our farm near Fond du Lac where we raised our four children. Two are still in college, and two have careers off the farm, but they all still help when they can with farm chores and bookkeeping. Our goal has always been to leave the place better than we found it when we started out. Even in the early days we were alarmed about chemical damage. We were concerned about the health of the land, especially considering that we hope to pass it on to our children.

We began going to the MOSES' Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference back in 1994. The knowledge we've gained and the contacts we've made at these conferences has been crucial to our success as organic farmers. We've particularly appreciated the farmer-presenters, as they've given us information at our own level, in our own language, and in a way that we could hear it. In the area of livestock health, we learned how disease prevention is the key, about the need to minimize cattle stress levels, the important role of nutrition, and how to use homeopathic preparations. I'd never heard of homeopathy before I'd been at the conference, and now I make some of my own remedies. On the crops side, we've learned about using flame weeding (using a tractor mounted propane tank and torches) to organically kill weeds, about the importance of balanced soil fertility and how weeds can flourish in unbalanced soil.

Our crops have been certified organic for the past 13 years and the dairy since July, 2000. Looking back, organic production and the resulting price premium have really held the farm together for us. It's made it affordable for us to stay here. Even though we've grown organic crops for years, I would have had to find work off the farm if we hadn't begun organic dairy farming in 2000. **"Organics" is really what's kept us in farming.**

Attending the conference each year and networking with other farmers is very important to us. We want to see more farmers doing what we are doing on the farm, and education is certainly the key. **MOSES offers our kind of education.** Personally, it's inspiring for me to be on the MOSES board.

There's more concrete help and information available today for farmers making the transition to organic than we had available to us 13 years ago. Now, along with the conference, there is an abundance of resources. Private businesses in the organic community are helping. Our public universities are getting more involved in the research area. PLUS there is a growing consumer demand for organic products.

**As we look to the future at MOSES, we're thrilled to announce our new Organic Farming Mentoring Program.** In its first-year pilot stage this program will match nine experienced organic farmers with 18 farmers wanting to make the transition to organic production. The mentors will visit the transitional farms, offer recommendations, and be available for telephone consultation. I wish MOSES would have had a project like this when we were starting out. We sure could have used it.

When you add this new project to the other numerous projects of MOSES, you get a feel for just how much it offers the agricultural community in our region. **To keep doing this work, MOSES needs your financial support. This year, we're fortunate to be on the receiving end of a challenge from the Minneapolis-based McKnight Foundation.** The Foundation has agreed to match, dollar for dollar, the first \$10,000 received from new supporters of MOSES, as well as increased contributions from previous supporters. Please, take advantage of this great opportunity, make a tax deductible contribution to MOSES and double your impact. Thanks so much for your support, and best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Darlene Coehoorn  
MOSES Board Member

**P.S. Your financial support is vital!** Once again, many thanks for taking us up on the "McKnight Challenge" and doubling your support. Watch your mailbox in December for the flyer with details of the 2008 Organic Farming Conference to be held Feb. 21-23, 2008, in La Crosse, WI.

---

**Double your donation today! Take advantage of the Mc Knight Foundation Challenge.**  
McKnight will match, dollar for dollar, the first \$10,000 received from MOSES supporters.

Yes! I want to support MOSES! Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of:

\$250  \$100  \$50  \$35 \$  other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of payment:

Check/Money order, payable to MOSES.

VISA/MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

MOSES is a 501c(3) non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible.

The Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service  
PO Box 339, Spring Valley, WI 54767  
ph. 715-772-3153 fax. 715-772-3162  
[www.mosesorganic.org](http://www.mosesorganic.org)