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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 8, 2008

Contact: Cathy Olyphant, Office Manager (715-772-3153 or cathy@mosesorganic.org)

**Nominations Sought for the MOSES 2009 "Organic Farmer of the Year" Award
Deadline: September 15, 2008**

The Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) is seeking nominations for the "2009 Organic Farmer of the Year" award which will be presented at the 20th annual MOSES Organic Farming Conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin, February 26-28, 2009. This noteworthy award is a highlight of the annual Organic Farming Conference and is presented to organic farmers who have demonstrated innovations in organic farming and livestock management; excellence in enhancing and managing farm resources like soil, water, wildlife, and biodiversity; and who serve to educate and inspire farmers, consumers and others in their communities. Those who wish to nominate a farmer for the award must complete and return the Nomination form, available by calling the MOSES office or at www.mosesorganic.org/foy by the **deadline of September 15, 2008.**

The award includes a \$500 cash gift, admission to the 2009 Organic Farming Conference including all food and lodging, and a \$100 gift certificate redeemable at the conference book sales booth. Public recognition of exemplary organic farmers is an opportunity to celebrate their successes in organic food production.

The past award recipients have been innovative agriculturalists as well as mentors and teachers to other farmers. Gary and Nicholas Zimmer of Otter Creek Organic Farm were the recipients of the 2008 Organic Farmer of the Year Award. The Zimmers have a diverse and well integrated farm where they manage 1,200 acres of organic crops, dairy cows, beef cows and pastured pork. Gary Zimmer is also a soil consultant with the company he founded, Midwestern Bio-Ag. The Zimmer family farm is an outstanding example of a well-run, profitable and environmentally sound organic farm.