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MIDWEST ORGANIC & SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION SERVICE

NEWS RELEASE

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Organic Dairy Pasture Walk Field Day – June 22

Free event focuses on pasture-based organic dairy farming

SPRING VALLEY, WI – The Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) announces that an Organic Dairy Pasture Walk field day will be held on Wednesday, June 22, from 1pm – 4pm at the Kruse Family Organic Dairy Farm near Lansing, IA. The field day is free and will be held rain or shine.

Beginning and experienced farmers are invited to join farmer Mark Kruse as he discusses his pasture conversion experiences, rotational grazing system, and organic pasture and manure management. A pasture-based system has multiple benefits. For the farmer it reduces input and labor costs, for the cows it improves health and longevity, for the environment it reduces soil erosion and manure runoff, and for the consumer it provides milk and meat higher in healthy fatty acids.

Mark and Marcia Kruse have been dairy farming at their current 176 acre Lansing farm since 1977. The Kruses switched to organic methods in 1987 and in 1994, became the first organic dairy in Iowa for CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley. Fueled by an interest in grazing systems, the Kruses converted 56 acres of cropland to rotationally grazed pasture in 2004. With planning and cost-share assistance from the NRCS, the Kruses converted ridge top fields, previously in corn, small grains and alfalfa, to a timothy, orchard grass, brome and clover pasture.

“I really enjoy this setup,” notes Mark Kruse, designed so he can easily move his 80 cows to a new pasture paddock each day.

The pasture walk is sponsored by the Allamakee Soil & Water Conservation District, CROPP/Organic Valley, and the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES). The farm field day is free and refreshments will be served.

MOSES is a non-profit education and resource organization that works with farmers, farming organizations, and government agencies to organize its organic farm field days. Field day sessions are open to all farmers, agriculture professionals, and those interested in organic and sustainable farming practices. MOSES provides free information and resources to attendees of its field days, trainings and farm events.

Pre-registration is preferred. There are three easy options to register for MOSES field day events: online at www.mosesorganic.org, call (715) 778-5775 or email: angie@mosesorganic.org.

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