



The Organic

CULTIVATOR

THE GOODMAN FARM ANIMAL WELFARE

By **Gabrielle Daniels, Editor** and **Jackie Von Ruden, Farm Certification Manager**



Rebecca and Jim Goodman.

Photo by Gabrielle Daniels

On Thursday, May 19, on a beautiful spring day, Farm Certification Manager Jackie Von Ruden and newsletter editor Gabrielle Daniels traveled to Wonewoc, WI, to talk with Jim and Rebecca Goodman about the animal welfare recommendation that had been proposed (but withdrawn before voting) at the last National Organic Standards Board meeting. Jim and Rebecca are active participants in the organic industry and Jim is a former MOSA Board President. MOSA had supported the recent animal welfare recommendation with a couple of modifications; our farm visit reinforced the need for these revisions. We believed that, overall, the recommendations were workable and would be a good first step to reinforcing consumer confidence that the organic label also represents a high level of animal welfare.

Our goal in visiting the Goodmans was to spend time on a working organic dairy farm and discuss what the proposed changes

would mean to farmers and inspectors in practical terms. We met just outside their milkhouse and began our "walkabout" in the office. Jim and Rebecca said that, in terms of recordkeeping, the proposed animal welfare changes would not require a lot of extra work; it would be a simple matter to track a few more details in their existing notebooks.

The Goodman farm would also easily meet proposed livestock health care practice standards and all living condition standards and space requirements except the following: requirements calling for outdoor access to include access to soil at all times, and certain space requirements.

The Goodman farm is typical of many MOSA dairy farms: the average number of animals being milked in individual stalls is 35-40; plenty of access to good pasture during grazing season; indoor protection from inclement weather combined with plenty of fresh air and sunlight. Calves are kept with their mothers for a day or two and then kept in individual pens for 2-3 months, within sight, sound and smell of other calves and cows. Then they are grouped with other calves. There is plenty of room for all the animals in all age groups, which to Rebecca and Jim is "just common sense."

"Any time you have more animals than space permits," said Jim, "you have problems. When the animals have plenty of space, there is less disease and fewer injuries; there is less need for medical treatments like antibiotics."

Immediately outside the barn, the Goodmans have a spacious concrete outdoor yard with good drainage and plenty of access to feed stalls. If the requirement were to be for access to soil, the Goodmans would have to tear up their concrete! This is not realistic, nor does it seem to be the intent of the regulations. The NOSB recommendation calling for soil access was to provide for the needs of one species—poultry—but in doing so it could have an adverse impact on other species and on soil and nutrient conservation. The Livestock Committee was attempting to address some of the issues surrounding poultry access to healthy outdoor areas, with opportunities to engage in nat-

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

BONNIE WIDEMAN

Cost share news for 2011

The Certification Cost-Share program was set up by the USDA to help defray the cost of organic certification. In the words of the USDA, the reason for the cost-share program is, "By offering reimbursement for certification-related expenses, the USDA recognizes the cost of regulation and makes certification more affordable." Most of you take part in cost-share. There are some changes this year that make it even more attractive to those who pay more than \$1000 for their certification and have certification for more than one scope. Some of our certified clients do not take part in the cost-share program because of philosophical objections to government payments. This is clearly to be respected, but I would suggest that this special reimbursement program be given consideration. In order to sell certified organic products, you need to pay for certification since the USDA regulates it, and the USDA has allocated these funds specifically to be compensation for this expense. We've been asked in the past, "Could the check go directly to MOSA and be applied as a credit for the next year's certification costs?" and this is not possible—checks need to be written to the organic producer or handler. However, checks could be signed over and sent to MOSA to be applied to the next year's certification costs if this would be a preference.

How to apply

1. You need to complete the application that your state provides and get this in to them by October 31, 2011. MOSA will be making sure that the 20 states we certify in have all your names and addresses to send you applications. Many states are very proactive in sending out letters and applications, but if you are in a state that is not, and do not receive communication from your state about cost-share before August, contact them and request an application. The list of state contacts follows.

2. Besides the application, they need to know all of all the certification expenses you incur from October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011. We will be sending you, in early October, a statement that reflects these fees. If you are in Wisconsin, you need not wait until we send you this statement to send in your application, for we provide the fee and scope information directly. We are offering all states the opportunity to get the necessary fee and scope information from us directly and will keep you informed of whether or not your state has taken us up on this offer or if you need to wait to

get financial information from us before you send in your application.

3. If you are newly certified in 2011, your state will also want a copy of your certificate. You can make a copy of the certificate we send you. You need to have an effective certificate before October 1, 2011 to receive a cost-share payment this year. If you are newly certified after that date, the expenses can be claimed in 2012.

4. If this is not your first year of certification, you don't need to send in a copy of your certificate. We will verify your certification to be in good standing directly with the states. Another point that is sometimes not clear: if you were certified in 2010, you don't have to have your 2011 inspection or updated certificate before the deadline—your certification remains active.

What's new for 2011?

The NOP cost-share director has made it clear to the states that they should provide reimbursement for "multiple USDA organic certificates". This doesn't necessarily mean you have more than one certificate (as might seem to be the case) but, rather, if your certificate shows more than one "scope" or certification. The scopes are crops, livestock, wild crops and handling.

Question: Can an operation receive reimbursements for multiple USDA organic certificates?

Answer: Yes. An operation may be reimbursed up to 75% of the costs for each USDA organic certificate, so long as the total dollar amount reimbursed for any individual certificate does not exceed \$750 per fiscal year.

This is good news for any of you who pay more than \$1000/year for organic certification and have more than one scope. The average certification cost of MOSA clients in 2010 was \$1200, so many of our clients will benefit from this. Let's say you are certified for crops and livestock and your certification costs are \$2000/year. Last year you would have received the maximum of \$750, but this year with recognition that there is "one cost share payment for each scope", you should receive \$1500. Here's how that is calculated:

Your total certification costs=\$2000

Cost per scope=\$2000 divided by 2=\$1000

75% of \$1000=\$750 cost-share payment
for each scope

Your total cost-share payment=\$1500.

If you are sending in your certificate for the first time, the state should recognize the number of scopes you certify. We will also tell the states what your scopes of certification are when we send them the lists of who we certify in their state.

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Director

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What counts as a certification expense?

Below is a list of costs which may be reimbursed, as well as those which are ineligible. This list is meant to be demonstrative, not exhaustive. Questions about allowable costs should be directed to the Cost Share Manager.

Allowable Costs

- Application fees
- Inspection costs
- First-time USDA NOP certification fees
- Travel costs/per diem for organic inspectors
- User fees/ sales assessments
- Postage

Unallowable Costs

- Late fees
- Inspections due to violations of NOP regulations
- Any discrete charges related to certifications other than USDA organic
- Transitional certifications
- Materials and supplies
- Equipment

Other Q/A about cost share

Question: Will there be funds for the USDA organic certification cost share program next year?

Answer: Cost share programs will be available each fiscal year at least through FY2012. Future funding will be decided by Congress during the creation of the next Farm Bill.

Question: I operate in more than one state. To which state should I apply for reimbursement?

Answer: Apply to the state in which your business headquarters are located and in which your taxes are filed.

Cost-Share Contacts in States where MOSA certifies

Some states have downloadable applications on their websites.

Arkansas

Zachary Taylor, Director of Marketing
Arkansas Agriculture Department
1 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205
P: 501-219-6324
E-mail: Zachary.Taylor@aad.ar.gov

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GROWING ORGANICS CERTIFICATION NEWS FOR FARMERS

NOP FINAL DECISION ON BEEF FINISHING AND PASTURE

On May 10, the National Organic Program (NOP) finalized its consideration of public comment on requirements for pasture during finishing of slaughter stock with a notice in the Federal Register.

Although the access to pasture rule that came out in February of 2010 was issued as final, the NOP invited public comments concerning the ruminant slaughter stock provisions specific to infrastructural hurdles and regional differences that USDA should consider; the length of finishing period; and the use of feedlots for finishing organic slaughter stock. In response, they received and evaluated over 500 individual and 14,000 form letter public comments.

Their final decision was to make no changes to the requirements that were published as part of the Pasture Rule in February of 2010.

The rule goes into effect as it was written and currently certified operations need to be in compliance on June 17, 2011:

During the finishing period, ruminant slaughter stock are exempt from the minimum 30 percent Dry Matter Intake (DMI) requirement from grazing that other ruminants must meet under the livestock feed requirements at §205.237 of the NOP regulations. However, producers must maintain slaughter stock on pasture for each day that their finishing period overlaps with the grazing season for the operation's geographical location. Another condition is that the finishing period is limited to one-fifth (1/5) of the animal's total life or 120 days, whichever is shorter.

The Federal Register notice provides a summary of the comments NOP received and explains the rationale behind a decision to retain the provision as codified. To read the full Federal Register notice, visit www.regulations.gov (document Number AMS-NOP-11-0030; NOP-11-07) or visit <http://1.usa.gov/FinalRuleRuminant>.

Our beef producers whose grain-finishing takes place during the grazing season in feedlots or other areas with no access to pasture will be most affected by this rule. We will not be able to certify animals that have no access to pasture during the grazing season. A question that arises here is "what is considered a pasture during the finishing period?" There has to be forage for grazing of sufficient quality and quantity that the livestock will graze. Lots with little or no vegetation will not be considered pasture.

From discussions we at MOSA have had with farmers and with other certifiers, there seems to be some confusion about what the impact will be of "the finishing period is limited to one-fifth of the animal's total life or 120 days". MOSA's interpretation of this requirement is that farmers and certifiers are to evaluate the length of the finishing period only as it overlaps with the grazing season. If the NOP had intended certifiers to assess and monitor the length of the total finishing period, they would have put more definition of what qualifies as a finishing ration into the rule.

If you have any questions about these requirements, please do not hesitate to contact any certification staff member at MOSA for discussion. Though we would have been more pleased with a different outcome from the NOP, it's no longer any question: the rule is clear and to be enforced June 17, 2011. We hope our producers who produce choice grade grain-finished beef understand and are able to meet these requirements.

Bonnie Wideman
Executive Director

WORM TURNS AT NOP

Controlling internal parasites in organic livestock is challenging for many organic producers. While a good degree of control can be achieved with organic management, emergency situations can still arise. When this happens, the only parasiticide allowed is ivermectin. Ivermectin is known to harm the plant life, earthworms, microorganisms and dung beetles that are so important to an organic system. But producers may soon have some new, less toxic alternatives to ivermectin. The National Organic Program (NOP) is proposing a change to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances that would allow the limited use of two additional parasiticides in organic livestock production and comments are being accepted.

The NOP is specifically proposing to amend §205.603(a) of the National List as follows:

(a)(18) Parasiticides.

Prohibited in slaughter stock, allowed in emergency treatment for dairy and breeder stock when organic system plan-approved preventive management does not prevent infestation. Milk or milk products from a treated animal cannot be labeled as [organic] for 90 days following treatment. In breeder stock, treatment cannot occur during the last third of gestation if the progeny will be sold as organic and must not be used during the lactation period for breeding stock.

(i) Fenbendazole (CAS #43210-67-9)—only for use by or on the lawful written order of a licensed veterinarian.

(ii) Ivermectin (CAS #70288-86-7).

(iii) Moxidectin (CAS #113507-06-5)—for control of internal parasites only.

Essentially, this proposal would allow the use of fenbendazole among breeder stock for beef and dairy cattle, goats, swine, and turkeys. This proposal would also allow the use of moxidectin among breeder stock for beef and dairy cattle and sheep. Use of both parasiticides is allowed provided that this use is not routine and it is not administered during the last third of gestation and lactation for offspring that will be sold as organic.

Fenbendazole is used only for treatment of internal parasites and its action is targeted toward specific organisms. There are few reports of resistance developing. In the environment, it does little or no harm to aquatic and soil plants, insects, and microorganisms and degrades rapidly in sunlight.

Moxidectin is more controversial. First petitioned in 2003, some research has shown moxidectin to harm soil and plant life (especially aquatic), while other research has shown that

moxidectin causes less harm than ivermectin to earthworms, dung beetles, and plants. Because it can be used to control external as well as internal parasites, it can be washed off treated livestock by rain and enter the environment directly as well in manure. That is why its proposal includes the annotation that it is only for internal use.

Both Organic Valley staff veterinarian Dr. Guy Jodarski and former NOSB member Hue Karreman would like to see only fenbendazole considered for use in organic production because it is effective yet does not have the environmental impact of either ivermectin or moxidectin. It needs to be clarified, however, that fenbendazole can also be used on sheep. MOSA agrees. We do question whether or not veterinary diagnosis should be required for parasiticide use. Livestock producers, do you have an opinion on this? If so, please comment by July 5.

You can submit written comments either on the Web at <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by writing to

Toni Strother, Agricultural Marketing Specialist
National Organic Program, USDA- AMS-NOP
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Room 2626-SO., Ag Stop 0268
Washington, DC 20250-0268

We also would consider your input in making our MOSA comment so contact us if you would like.

**Holly Born
Certification Specialist**



All photos by Steve Walker, unless otherwise noted.

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HANDLING ORGANICS CERTIFICATION NEWS For Processor/Handlers

SPRING 2011 NOSB MEETING

On April 26-29, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) met in Seattle. Organic community members in attendance heard a recorded message from the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan, a report on the state of the National Organic Program (NOP), and lots of comments from the public. The NOSB made a number of recommendations for NOP consideration, including changes to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. Following are highlights likely of interest to certified organic processors and handlers.

Due to the number of folks who signed up for public comment, each person's comment period was limited to three minutes, rather than the usual five. The NOSB also restricted the number of questions they asked of those making public comment. For commenters, these limits presented quite a challenge. Even the usual five minutes goes pretty quickly. And follow-up questions from the NOSB allow NOSB to better understand comments and often enable the public presentation of additional pertinent information. The new procedures need critique to ensure that the public is heard and that the NOSB has the information they need to make decisions.

NOP Report

Miles McEvoy, NOP Deputy Administrator, provided an extensive Program Update. The 45-slide presentation is available online at the NOSB Meetings page (<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateJ&page=NOSBMeetings>). McEvoy reported on NOP progress in response to findings in the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Audit of NOP, released in the spring of 2010. Findings included the need to improve enforcement, process complaints in a more timely way, improve oversight of California's state organic program, implement periodic residue testing, perform NOP accreditation peer review, improve consistency of Program requirements, and conduct audits of foreign certifiers. The OIG made 14 recommendations for Program improvements, and the NOP has completed corrective action on 13. The recommendation which has not yet been completed, regarding use of a peer review panel, is in process.

The NOP report also included a review of the NOP strategic plan. Main areas of focus include: quality management, standards – consistency, accreditation; oversight; compliance and enforcement; and management strategy. Over the next

several months, the organic community can expect a number of NOP statements on rule changes, guidance and policies. Also, a discussion of international activities included updates on ongoing work with Canada, on the US assessment of the EU organic program (as we work toward a US-EU equivalence agreement), and noted an increased focus on China, Korea, and Japan. With regard to enforcement, it was reported that the NOP closed 71 complaints in the first 6 months of Fiscal Year 2011. Thirty-six of these complaints alleged representation of products as organic without certification, 11 alleged labeling violations, and 2 found fraudulent use of NOP certificates. The NOP also issued 8 civil penalties for organic standards violations in recent months. Positive trends include that certifiers are effective in protecting organic integrity, that the vast majority of organic operations comply with the organic standards, and that organic products have minimal pesticide residues.

Vitamins, Minerals, Accessory Nutrients in Organic Foods

The NOP report concluded with a discussion on one of the NOSB parameters for nutrient vitamins and minerals allowed in organic foods. National List section §205.605(b) Synthetics Allowed, currently includes "Nutrient vitamins and minerals, in accordance with 21 CFR 104.20, Nutritional Quality Guidelines for Foods." There is debate over whether or not that opens a door to use of other accessory nutrients in organic products.

In 1995, the NOSB recommendation on "The Use of Nutrient Supplementation in Organic Foods" had said "the term 'accessory nutrients' means nutrients not specifically classified as a vitamin or a mineral but found to promote optimum health." This was intended to open options for future nutritional discoveries, with the category boundaries maintained by the state of current scientific literature and expert opinion.

In 2006, the NOP received a complaint alleging violation to the National Organic Standards for certified organic products that contained accessory nutrients. Following the complaint, the NOP determined that accessory nutrients were allowed. This was based on an interpretation of National List section §205.605(b), 21 CFR 104.20, and past NOSB recommendations. In 2008, the NOP determined that lutein ester did not fall under the FDA fortification policy and was not allowed in organic foods. This decision also stated that only nutrients listed in 21 CFR 104.20(d)(3) were allowed.

McEvoy noted that the 21 CFR 104.20 regulatory citation on Nutritional Quality Guidelines for Food has a limited

scope. It does not cover the use of nutrients such as taurine, DHA, ARA, lycopene, or lutein. It also does not include nutrients used in infant formula or pet food. He noted that FDA does not define “accessory nutrients,” and noted that the FDA suggested that 21 CFR 101.9, 107.100 and 107.10 are the appropriate regulatory references to include essential and approved vitamins, minerals and other nutrients for infant formula and the fortification of foods.

McEvoy’s NOP report noted that the NOP lacks a clear list of nutrients, vitamins and minerals allowed in organic food products, and that the previous NOP interpretation of nutrient vitamins and minerals allowed under §205.605(b) was incorrect. However, the NOP recognizes that many certified operations made business decisions based on the 1995 NOSB recommendations and statements provided previously by the program. The NOP plans to publish draft guidance that will clarify the FDA interpretation of 21 CFR 104.20, that is, only nutrient vitamins and minerals listed in 104.20(d)(3) and those identified as essential nutrients in 21 CFR 101.9 are allowed under the NOP standards.

The NOP plans to provide a transition time for businesses to reformulate products to comply with the regulations as per the FDA interpretation. Draft guidance will be published in the Federal Register with a 60 day comment period, and the NOP will publish final guidance after considering the comments received. Also nutrients, vitamins and minerals required for pet food will be covered by separate rulemaking. DHA, ARA, choline and taurine have been petitioned and are awaiting board action. In the meantime, the NOP advises companies that they may petition to add substances to the National List, including nutrients, vitamins and minerals not allowed under 21 CFR 104.20.



This report set the tone for NOSB discussion on the topic. Prior to the meeting, the Handling Committee put forth a recommendation to change the National List to read: “Nutrient Vitamins and Minerals, restricted to materials required or allowed by law for the purpose of enrichment, supplementation or fortification of foods including infant formula, and materials the use of which is supported by the FDA or the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.” The Handling Committee decided not to vote on this recommendation, but indicated they would prepare an annotation change recommendation for the next NOSB meeting. For now, the Board voted to relist nutrient vitamins and minerals at §205.605(b), with the current annotation. If this had not passed basic vitamins and minerals [such as Vitamin D in milk] would no longer be allowed in organic products.

Chlorine Materials

In December 2010, the NOP responded to confusion regarding the current National List annotations for use of chlorine materials by issuing draft guidance on use restrictions for chlorine materials in organic production and handling. Following review of this draft guidance, the NOSB Handling Committee had recommended a change to the listing for chlorine materials to clarify that they may be used up to maximum labeled rates for disinfecting and sanitizing food contact surfaces, and that chlorine materials in water used in direct crop or food contact is permitted at levels approved by FDA or EPA for such purpose, provided that the use is followed by rinse with potable water. However, the Handling Committee decided not to vote on the chlorine materials annotation change recommendation at this meeting.

Petitioned Materials for Use in Processing

Attapulgite, a natural substance used remove impurities such as undesirable odors, colors, and trace metals in oils, was approved for addition to the National List, as a processing aid in the handling of plant and animal oils.

Calcium Acid Pyrophosphate was petitioned for addition to the National List for use as a leavening agent for organic baked products. The Handling Committee did not recommend its addition to the list, in part because the petition did not provide adequate justification for addition. The motion to add this material to the National List failed.

Silicon Dioxide was petitioned to be removed from the National List. In 2007, public comment asserted that silicon dioxide was no longer needed on the National List due to the availability of a certified organic alternative substance.

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ural behaviors (scratching) on natural surfaces (soil). Jim feels the key requirement for dairy animal welfare has already been put in place by the NOP: pasture.

We moved on to other parts of the farm, spending time at the heifer/steer yard. At the very most, Rebecca told us, there might be 40 animals in that area. It was clear that this area would provide over 300 square feet per animal, which was well over the proposed requirement of 40 square feet per animal. The loafing shed that adjoined this open yard was 50' x 30' and would technically not meet the proposed indoor space requirement during the rare occasions that 40 animals would crowd into the shed all at once. We discussed how the proposed requirement, which listed separate indoor and outdoor space provision, would be impractical for situations like the Goodmans' heifer/steer set-up. Allowances need to be made for the provision of combined indoor/outdoor space.

As we moved on to look at the pastures, we passed a concrete manure pit with good drainage and piping and equipment access and passed through a well-maintained tunnel under the highway. The current rule calls for "well-drained and kept in good condition yards, laneways, and feeding pads" and this farm clearly meets this requirement. Jim and Rebecca feel that manure management and maintaining laneways are important to successful farming. Rebecca scrapes the under-the-road walkway frequently so the cows don't have to walk through the muck. Jim levels the lanes when they get bumpy. Cows need a good surface to walk on.

The Goodman pastures looked great and so did the health of the grazing cows. This brought our discussion around to the bigger picture of animal welfare. An issue in animal welfare proposals is how much specificity in body scoring, cleanliness of animals, mobility or lameness scoring should be included. Jackie asked, "Do you think we need guidance documents from the NOP or more specific rules in the Standards themselves?" Again, it comes back to practicality. A well-trained inspector can assess pasture conditions without measurements. Similarly, he/she is able to assess herd health conditions without body scoring every animal. With livestock farming in particular, with such a wide variety of different species of livestock having different needs, guidance documents would, perhaps, be most helpful and effective.

The vital importance of well-trained and knowledgeable inspectors is clear. Educating inspectors is very important but it is equally important, Jim said, to then let the inspectors evaluate the farming operation. An essential component in successful organic certification is "human decision-making based on well-

trained inspectors." But it is not only inspectors who need this level of expertise; it is just as important for others to be able to read the reports and accurately assess compliance accordingly.

"You can't write a hard and fast rule for the entire United States," Jim said. That simply doesn't make sense. The Pasture Rule addresses many of these issues. It will solve many of the current problems, if it is enforced. Enforcement must be shared.

"You can't put all the burden on the certification agency," Jim said. He feels it's very important that processors and buyers not look the other way if they become aware of noncompliances. "Organic is a state of mind," said Jim, "and it takes the organic community to make it work: the farmer, the consumer, the buyer, and the certifier." It is this combination that will be most effective in the long run.

"Most people," said Jim, "have no idea what it's like to raise livestock. [But] organic production should, and humane farming methods can, ensure that farmers make a decent living and consumers know their food money is not industrializing animals." But of course the certification agencies play a part, too. For instance, with regard to restricted practices or treatments, Rebecca said, "Always look at the big picture of management practices, which brings the farmer back into the picture. Know your animals," Rebecca said.

Jim agreed. "With small herds, you know your animals. That's part of sound farming practice."

But what part do the National Organic Standards play? Organic farming is better now than it was 20 years ago, they agreed. And "if the NOP does its job," said Rebecca, "it might be even better in 20 years." From medical treatments like antibiotics to using other synthetic substances that are restricted but not prohibited, to polling or de-horning, to the size of your herd, it was evident that the Goodmans understand that everything comes down to a farmer's management practices. The Standards are there for clarity but creating rules for every aspect of farming in every part of the country is not only impractical but impossible.

It was a pleasure to visit this farm, and encouraging to see that most of the Livestock Committee's proposed recommendations would have been met on this operation and verifiable within a reasonable inspection time. However, the requirement that all species have contact with soil as part of outdoor access is something MOSA has objected to in our comments to the NOSB. We will continue to express this view in future comment. Also, if there are going to be space requirements for livestock, the numbers have to be carefully considered when access to both the outdoors and shelter is provided together. We continue to be-

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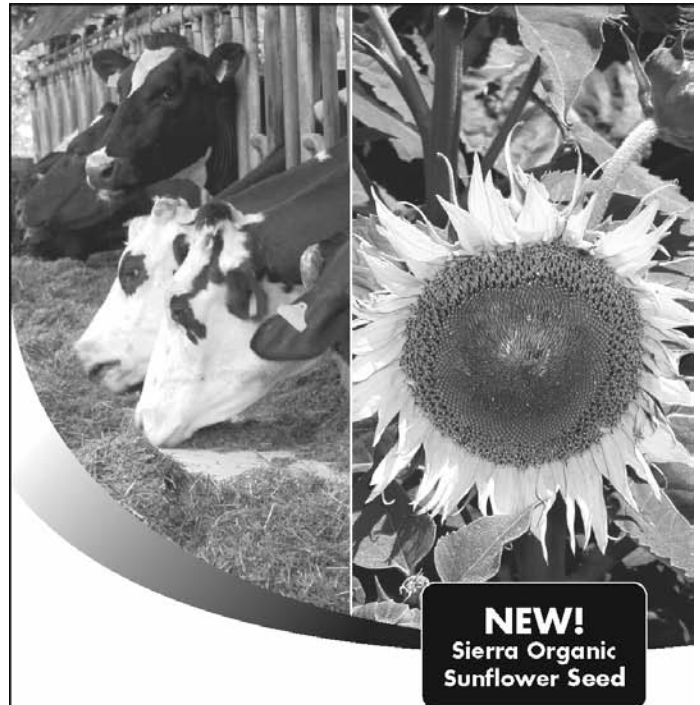
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lieve that the Standards should avoid too much specificity in condition and mobility scoring and that guidance documents could aid in providing assessment details to inspectors as needed. The most important factor is having well-trained and knowledgeable livestock inspectors who can assess conditions accurately. As Jim put it, this is the need for "human decision-making based on well-trained inspectors."

MOSA encourages all livestock producers to stay informed of future NOSB recommendations and give input. All recommendations are available on the National Organic Program website, and we will provide information in this newsletter as well.

We thank the Goodmans for taking the time to allow us to do a little "mock inspection" of animal welfare conditions on their farm and for sharing their views with us. We also would like to express thanks to Wendy Fulwider and her fellow Livestock Committee members for the work they have done in bringing animal welfare needs before the National Organic Standards Board. We support them in their efforts and appreciate their willingness to accept our input, which is put forth on behalf of our many livestock producers.



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For Sale: Small herd of 10 registered Ayreshires, various stages of lactation; also 1 registered bull from the 2009 Canadian (Ayreshire) Cow of the Year. Call Lee at 715-579-3308.

For Sale: MOSA-certified Jersey springing heifers. Choose 1 or 8 out of 20 head. Freshening now through October. \$1100 each or best offer. Marlin Martin, W5511 Century Road, Greenwood, WI 54437.

FEED/SEED

For Sale: Certified organic roasted soybeans. Also buying organic feed grade soybeans. Andersen Feeds, Inc. Galesville, WI 54630. 608-582-2595.

For Sale: Top Quality Certified Organic SEED GARLIC. Proven Varieties. Farmer Friendly pricing available. For best selection order early. www.organicgarlicseedfarm.com or Liz @ (541) 846-0602.

For Sale: Certified Organic Garlic Bulbs for eating or planting. Over 50 varieties of high quality garlic that grow well in the Midwest. For growing instructions and garlic seed purchases, see our website: www.keeneorganics.com.

For Sale: MOSA certified organic hay, 3'x3'x7', bales stored inside. Various quality and prices. Also 200 small square bales of alfalfa with grass, RFV 147. Alma, WI area. Call Marv at 608-685-3345 or e-mail jtimm@riverland.org.

For Sale: Organic hay, 5x6 round bales, approx. 1500# each. 1st and 2nd crop (stored inside). Call 608-625-4137.

For Sale: Lg. rd bales net wrapped MOSA certified organic alfalfa/grass hay, stored indoors, 1st crop - \$40; 2nd crop - \$50; 3rd crop - \$60 per bale. Wonewoc, WI contact Tony: 608-477-0069.

For Sale: Organic hay: 4x4, net-wrapped rds, dry or wrapped balage. Alfalfa or grass, \$70-\$180/ton. 1st-4th cuttings. Test results available. Rushford, MN 507-864-8080.

For Sale: Certified organic seedlings: tomatoes, peppers, onions, etc. Custom orders welcome. Also organic and untreated seed. D&S Organic Farm, 4738 Gates East Rd, Middlefield, OH, 44062. 440-693-4632.

For Sale: Widest independent selection of certified organic and non-GMO seeds & related products at lowest possible prices. All main brands handled. Serving all WI & SE MN. Order early for best selection & price. Your #1 certified organic seed source. Golden Grains, Sparta, WI. 608-269-5150.

For Sale: Dairy quality balage. Alfalfa 4x4s, RFV 194, crude protein 25.4, certified organic. Rushford, MN. jnerick@acegroup.cc or 507-864-8080.

For Sale: MOSA-certified organic alfalfa/grass mix, 50 bales 2nd crop, 800 lbs net-wrapped RFQ 144 \$1.00/point; 1st crop grass, 126 bales RFQ 93; 20 800-lb bales, roto-cut, net-wrapped \$80/ton. Ogema, WI, 715-767-5388.

For Sale: Certified organic wheat straw. Clean. Baled July 2010. Cherry County, Nebraska. 5 semi loads. Will be baling certified alfalfa this summer (2011). Contact Carl 402 389-1690.

For Sale: 2010 organic hay 3 x 3 x 8 bales. Stored inside on pallets. Tested 114:202 RFQ. AnaLab. Jerry Nuytten, MN. 507-829-5260.

For Sale: Certified organic alfalfa, large round bales, 120-162 RFU; \$1.00 / point of RFU Delivery available Waseca, MN 507-521-5525.

For Sale: MOSA-certified 4x5 net wrapped 1st crop. 715-879-5572.

Buy and Sell: Quality certified organic grains and proteins. Custom feed milling and soybean roasting. Bulk auger delivery in WI. Golden Grains, Sparta, WI. 608-269-5150.

For Sale: MOSA-certified barerooted onion plants. Candy, Safrane, Mustang, Cortland, Redwing. Also Leeks. \$8 per hundred, \$40 per thousand. Large quantity discounts! For more information, write to Ammon Stoltzfus, W12200 Country Road C, Black River Falls, WI 54615.

For Sale: **got organic milk?** need organic hay? 1st crop 4x5 round grass/alfalfa, 900# bales, stored inside. 44\$ a bale, delivery available up to 50 miles from Medford, WI. 715-748-6863 OR 715-965-1234

For Sale: Organic certified hay from Northeast Iowa. Round bales of dry hay and bedding for balage. Low potassium hay available. Feed tests made on all lots. Contact James at 563-586-2231.

For Sale: Organic alfalfa. 1st/2nd/3rd crops. Dairy hay, baleage, wrapped. 3 x 3 x 5 1/2 square bales. Larry, Coon Valley, Wisconsin. 608-452-3641.

FOR SALE: 2011 organic hay, big round bales or standing grass and clover. Wauzeka, WI. Bob Molini 608-875-5810.

For Sale: Roasted soybeans, good quality, ICO-certified organic. \$910/ton. Contact John S. Bornreger, 5769 Dell Road, Cashton, WI 54619.

For Sale: Organic hay and baleage, no rain, various lots, tested, rounds: net wrapped and small squares. Delivery available. Call for info. 715-873-4111.

MISCELLANEOUS

Wanted: Looking for 50 head certified organic cows and heifers: Holstein, Brown Swiss or cross. Need them no sooner than June 15. Call 218-770-1089.

Farm For Sale: 130 crop acres certified organic, two houses and other outbuildings. Owners need to retire. \$500,000. West Central Wisconsin. 800-657-4412.

For Rent or Sale: 100 acres, farmed organically since 1991. 715-644-0300.

For Sale: JD 230 28' Disc; Henke Roller mill w/ blower & elevator; Kovar 60' pine weeder; Manure spreader on Internat'l Tandem truck. Culver Farm. 715-568-3758.

For Sale: Cultivators for Farmall B and Farmell H. Cashton, WI. 608-377-0334.

For Sale: Garlic Tincture: Approved for treatment of organic livestock, but not for routine use. Made with our own garlic. While supply lasts, 1 qt for \$70, 16 oz. for \$40, 8 oz for \$25. All prices are postage paid. The Garlic Garden, N83 Hall Dr., Stetsonville, WI 54480.

Wanted: Organic straw in summer of 2011. Growers in ND, MN, contact 563-543-4513.

For Sale: IH 5100 soybean special grain drill. 21x7 DD openers, 3" press wheels, grass seed, full width C-tine scratcher w/drag, row markers w/electrical control. Includes operator's manual and misc. parts. Very good condition. \$3750 or reasonable offer. Igl Farms, Antigo WI 715-627-7888.

For Sale: Falc rotovator model Kupa 4000 15' used on 400 acres. Like new \$25,000; 15' sidewinder rotovator \$8500.; 2 Lilliston 6-30 cultivators. One with row units \$4000. On without \$3000. Both have new spiders.; Kovar 30' Tineweeder new 2' tines. Hydraulic Fold. Baldwin WI 715-684-2488.

For Sale: Open pollinated seed corn. Wapsie Valley. 85day. MN 13. 88 day. "J" Reids 90 day. \$79.00 per 50#. Rich Holman. Baldwin, WI 715-684-2488.

For Sale: 10+ acres available, most recently in hay or pasture. May now be all applied (or part desired) to organic cropping. Any balance would be pastured to remain organic. Fields were certified in the past, but not currently. Located just south of 121 off County G (Schermerhorn Valley). Call 715-984-2529 or email snugtherjoiner@triwest.net.

FREE: Rochester Staves silos, you dismantle. 16' X 60' & 18' X 60'. 715-452-5817.

Farm For Sale: #S2289 Schuester Lane above Chaseburg, off County Road K. 155 acres, 75 tillable. Has been fallow, in CRP, for twenty years. \$4000 per acre or best offer. Contact Carl Henden at 208-720-9121 or cjhenden@yahoo.com. All serious offers will be considered.

FOR RENT: CERTIFIABLE ORGANIC HAY GROUND. Available for 2011 growing season: 23.7 acres of certifiable organic hay ground for rent 6 miles west of Soldiers Grove, in the Pine Knob area. Call 608-624-3959 or e-mail knot22@hotmail.com for details.

WANTED: A large MOSA associate manufacturing organic pickles is in search of Wisconsin grower for organic cucumbers in 2012. Grower must be certified and have proven ability to provide bulk quantities. We need the following quantities and sizes of cucumbers in 2012:

Size	Diameter	Bushels
1A	0-13/16"	3,365
1B	13/16"-1.00"	1,122
2A	1.00"-1.25"	3,990
2B	1.25"-1.50"	6,623
3A	1.50"-1.75"	6,623
3B	1.75"-2.00"	3,239
Relish	2.00"-2.50"	6,934
Total		31,896

Experience in growing cucumbers commercially would be desirable but not necessarily required. Contact Kevin Talbot @ 952 368-3772.

FOR SALE: 35 Acre organic farmette in Wild Rose WI \$325,000. The property includes a restored 3 bedroom 1 and 1/2 bath farmhouse, renovated 40 x 80 barn with a new metal roof, 40 x 40 metal pole barn, 30 x 40 garage (2 car with workshop) and a granary. 15 acres have been planted in mixed grass/alfalfa. Current MOSA certification has lapsed, all record-keeping current and in order to renew certification. Please contact us for additional information or pictures. taylor.warsek@gmail.com or 920-344-1033.

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Toll free: 800-279-0260

Cellular: 715-570-1607

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Costshare*Continued from page 3***Colorado**

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 P.O. Box 30017
 Lansing, MI 48909

** Unfortunately, Michigan is not, at this point, participating in the cost share program because of the budgetary restrictions of the state. If you wish to contact the Department of Agriculture in Michigan to discuss your interest in the cost-share program, the contact would be Robin Rosenbaum. 517-335-6542*

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UPDATE:

CANADIAN EQUIVALENCE

On March 24, 2011, we sent copies of a compliance affidavit to all MOSA-certified handlers for use in verifying that their suppliers meet the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement. Under the Arrangement, NOP-certified crop products (including processed crop products) may be exported to Canada if they are verified to be produced without the use of sodium nitrate (Chilean nitrate), and without hydroponic or aeroponic production methods. Similarly, products from livestock must have verification that the animals were raised according to livestock stocking rates of the Canadian Organic Regulations. Since early 2011, we've responded to many requests for this additional verification, often because it's being requested by their buyers. The need for verification trickles back to the farm and the process can get cumbersome and time-consuming.

In 2011, MOSA is proactively reviewing producers' organic plan information to see if compliance with the Canadian requirements can be verified. When it can, a compliance statement will be added to producer certificates as we complete the final review. That statement will say "_____ additionally certified in compliance with the terms of the US-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement." The blank will be filled in with the applicable product information, such as "This operation is...", "Crops are...", "Eggplant is...", "Livestock products are...", "Cheddar cheese is..." and so forth. For proces-

sors/handlers, we won't be assessing US-Canada Equivalency compliance unless this requested; verification for them will mean many suppliers need to provide the compliance affidavit, or a certificate with the Canadian compliance statement.

With long supply chains, many producers may not be aware that their products may end up as ingredients in Canadian exports. So, we are checking the additional verification needs ahead of time and if compliance is verified in the course of our routine annual review process, we plan to add the compliance statement to producer certificates at no charge. However, our fee schedule notes that additional verification for Canadian Equivalence is subject to an administrative fee of \$60/hour, with a \$75 minimum charge. We are assessing this fee when a compliance statement is needed prior to final review or when it is requested outside of the annual review process. Processors requesting that their suppliers obtain the Canadian compliance verification should be aware that the suppliers may be charged a fee as we provide that verification.

It may get easier. In April, the National Organic Standards Board voted to remove the annotation that allows restricted use of sodium nitrate in NOP-certified crop products. And the new pasture rule is expected to ease restrictions on stocking rates for ruminants. It's uncertain when these changes may take effect, but we look forward to these changes simplifying the equivalence verification process.

Steve Walker
Processing/Compliance Manager

EVENTS CALENDAR

MOSES Field Day:

Getting Started in Organic Market Gardening June 5, 2011 Farmington, MN

A MOSES event in partnership with the Organic Field School at Gardens of Eagan. Classroom, farm tour and hands-on activities with experienced market gardeners who will cover aspects of production and marketing - perfect for beginner and intermediate level producers. For more detailed information go to www.mosesorganic.org or contact MOSES at 715-778-5775. Time: 10am - 4pm Cost: \$50

Great River Graziers:

Pasture Walk & Facilitated Discussion Groups (Several different topics and locations) June 7, 2011 Eastman, WI

Increasing soil fertility and health continues to be a goal. Old Orchard grass stands are not highly palatable, herd isn't eating it? What are better options for this rough farm and can Sudan-grass be a part of the solution? For directions and more information go to www.mosesorganic.org or contact Danny Roberts at 608-874-4645. Time: 10:30am

June 21, 2011 Wauzeka, WI

Mentoring a beginning farmer, second year on an established working grazing farm. Evaluating the changes made and planning for future improvements. For directions and more information go to www.mosesorganic.org or contact Wandy Peralta at (608) 375-5070 or Doug Spany at (608) 875-5200. Time: 10:30am

July 19, 2011 Eastman, WI

Transitioning the operation of the farm to the next generation on a 40 cow grazing farm. The good, the bad and the ugly. For directions and more information go to www.mosesorganic.org or contact Roger and Matt Dahlberg at (608) 874-4265. Time: 10:30am

July 5, 2011 Farmersburg, IA

How to extend the grazing season on a stocker, cow/calf operation. Plans to sell yearling as grass fed beef in the fall, after the grazing season. For directions and more information go to www.mosesorganic.org or contact Jason Klinge at (536) 783-2456. Time: 10:30am

MOSES Field Days:

Organic Dairy Calf and Milk Quality Management June 9, 2011 Lancaster, WI

Guy Jodarski, DVM and Kevin Jahnke will review best manage-

ment practices for raising healthy calves. Located on the Jahnke Family Farm and hosted by Kevin and Mary Jahnke. For more information contact MOSES at 715-778-5775. Time: 1-4 pm.

Grass Fed Beef Pasture Walk

June 11, 2011 Westby, WI

At the Lars and Corina Bergan Farm, E9986 Nelson Rd, Westby, WI. Cow and calf to finishing, direct marketing; improving species diversity and quality of pasture; inter-seeding clovers. Guest speaker: Jim Munsch, Grazing Consultant. Directions: From Westby, go 1 mile north on Hwy 27, then go right (east) 4-5 miles to Nelson Rd, which is also the driveway. From La Farge, go west to Cty D, right (north) to intersection with Cty P, left on P about 1 mile to Nelson Rd. For more information contact Ben Wojahn, Vernon County LCD (608) 637-5480. Time: 9am

Workshop: Is Entrepreneurial Farming for You?

June 30, 2011 Springfield, IL

Workshop will cover resource assessment, goal-setting, financial planning, and marketing options. Workshop participants will meet experienced sustainable farmers, other prospective farmers, and graduates of a 12-month farmer-training program. For more information, go to www.mosesorganic.org or contact Cathe Capel at 217-688-2570. Registration and payment can be processed online. Time: 5:30pm - 9pm Cost: \$30 incl. light supper

The Grain Place: Open House & Farm Tour

July 9, 2011 Marquette, NE

SAVE THE DATE! Dave Vetter of The Grain Place (the MOSES 2011 Organic Farmer of the Year) is having a farm open house & farm tour on Saturday, July 9. Stay tuned. For more information go to go to www.mosesorganic.org or call 715-778-5775.

MOSES Field Day:

Scaling Up your Vegetable Production

July 10, 2011 Grayslake, IL

Hosted by Peg & Matt Schaeffe of Sandhill Organics. Field demonstrations highlighting equipment and methods to produce 15-20 acres of vegetables from planting through post harvest handling. For more information contact MOSES at 715-778-5775 or go to www.mosesorganic.org. Time: 1pm - 4pm

Coming Home to Farm

July 14-16, 2011 Ames, IA

The Farmer Veteran Coalition is accepting applications from veterans who seek a career in farming and wish to attend "Coming Home to Farm" a 2 1/2 day organic farming retreat in Iowa. Educational retreat incl. farm tours of sustainable grain, vegetable, and livestock operations, as well as presentations on organic certification, production techniques, and marketing. Interested veterans can apply by contacting Michael Porter, director of career development, with the Farmer Veteran Coalition at 530-756-1395. See www.mosesorganic.org for more.

NOSB

Continued from page 7

The Handling Committee also decided not to vote on the Silicon Dioxide Petition. It will stay on the National List.

Sodium Acid Pyrophosphate was petitioned to have its allowance expanded to include use as a sequestrant on cooked and uncooked produce. It is currently listed "for use only as a leavening agent." The Handling Committee recommended against expanding the allowance, saying the petitioner did not provide compelling evidence that the material is necessary or essential to organic handling, and a survey of organic handlers did not reveal any who actually would use this material if it was listed. The motion to amend the annotation failed. It will remain on the National List with its current annotation.

Handling Materials for Sunset

At this NOSB meeting, Enzymes, Tocopherols and Potassium Iodide were up for their sunset review to determine if they should remain on the National List. Enzymes and tocopherols were voted to remain on the National List for another five years, without an annotation change. Natural potassium iodide will also remain on the List at section §205.605(a) without an annotation change, but synthetic potassium iodide will be removed from the List at .605(b). The Handling Committee had said the synthetic form is already included, via the listing for Nutrient Vitamins and Minerals.

Classification of Materials

The Materials Committee presented further work on the ever-challenging topic of materials classification, the process by which the NOSB determines whether substances are synthetic or non-synthetic, agricultural or non-agricultural. At the Seattle meeting, the NOSB considered a couple of motions regarding the materials classification guidance document.

One motion sought to rescind a portion of the definition for chemical change from the April 2010 NOSB recommendation. This portion of the definition had clarified that processing of agricultural products using allowed methods and materials does not result in chemical change as it applies to classification of materials. This motion passed. It is thought a guidance document can show that chemical changes generated during allowed processing methods do not result in a material being classified as synthetic, so this does not need to be part of the definition for chemical change.

A second motion addressed the question "What is a significant amount/level of a synthetic input to the process remaining in the final material?" A motion was made to define a significant level of a synthetic substance in the final material as a level exceeding any applicable regulatory limits (where limits are in effect to the materials being classified), or as a level without

any technical and functional effects in the final materials. This motion failed, lacking the two-third majority.

Corn Steep Liquor

Some recent NOSB discussion has considered whether corn steep liquor should be considered as synthetic or nonsynthetic. CSL is derived from natural sources, but uses sulfur dioxide in its processing. This decision has potential for setting precedent for decisions on other materials. The vote to classify CSL as non-synthetic failed. No further action was taken at this meeting. Future NOSB meetings may revisit this issue.

Chilean/sodium nitrate

The NOSB responded to the NOP's September 2010 Action Memo on one of the Sunset 2012 materials, sodium nitrate. Crop products for export to Canada may not use sodium nitrate (Chilean nitrate) in production, and this restriction extends to processed crop products. Currently, sodium nitrate is listed as prohibited in organic production, UNLESS use is restricted to less than 20% of a crops nitrogen requirement. The NOP tolerance for limited Chilean nitrate use is a barrier to trade. A motion was made to re-list sodium nitrate as prohibited, but without the current annotation which allows its use in some circumstances. This motion passed. Sodium nitrate will remain on the National List as a nonsynthetic substance prohibited in organic production. This is expected to ease requirements for international export for NOP organic products.

Work Plans

NOSB committees continue to be busy as we head toward the next NOSB meeting. The Handling Committee will consider 15 materials petitioned for National List sections §205.605 and .606, 13 materials for 2013 sunset review, revision to the Nutrient Vitamins and Minerals annotation, revision of the Nutrient Supplementation Recommendation, chlorine materials annotation, and will work with the Flavor Task Force. We also look forward to Materials Committee work on Classification of Materials, and a Materials Evaluation checklist. The Compliance, Accreditation, and Certification Committee will work on a finalized recommendation for NOP evaluation of materials review programs, as well as risk based unannounced inspections, development of inspector qualification and assessment criteria, pesticide residue testing, retail certification, and use of processing aids in 100% organic products.

Stay tuned. The next meeting is set for November 29-December 2 in Savannah, GA. Watch the Organic Cultivator and the NOSB Meetings web page for details.

Steve Walker
Processing/Compliance Manager



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MOSA'S MISSION STATEMENT

MOSA provides reliable and efficient verification and certification services to producers and processors primarily in the upper Midwestern United States. MOSA is committed to maintaining a timely, courteous, accurate, transparent and consistent approach throughout the program and on a day-to-day basis.

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