

The Organic Cultivator

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INTRODUCING THE NEW MOSA WEBSITE

by Joe Pedretti, Outreach Manager

MOSA is proud to announce our completely redesigned mosaorganic.org website, which will officially launch on January, 12th, 2017. The new website is the result of nearly eight months of work from conception, design, construction, content creation, and testing. A team of MOSA staff partnered with Cricket Design Works of Madison, Wis. for this project. The new site is beautiful, easy to navigate, and has all of the information needed for both current clients, transitioning farmers, prospective clients, consumers, and organic industry partners.

The new website is also our official introduction of the updated MOSA Logo. (see article on page 5)

WHAT'S NEW

Education and Resources

We have added several new features and sections to the website. There is an entirely new "Education and Resources" section that features Organic Fact Sheets, Cost Share Information, How to Transition to Organic, The Organic Cultivator Newsletters, and links to resources in the organic industry, including educational resources, regulatory agencies, policy and advocacy organizations, seeds, supplies and much more.

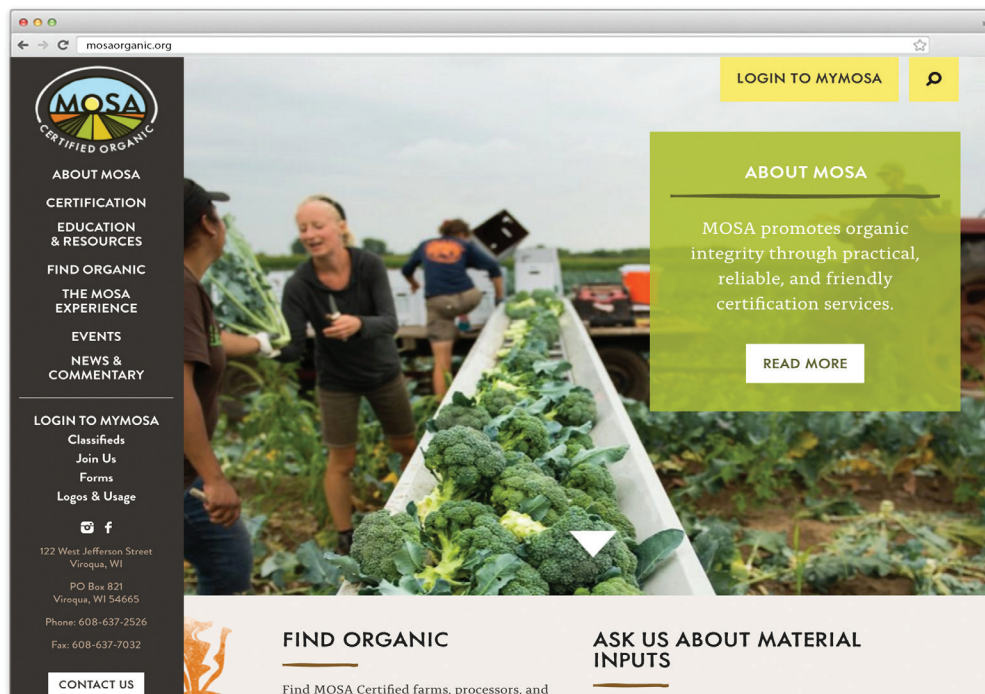
Events

Also new is a completely updated "Events" section, which features information about workshops, classes, conferences, expos and other events that offer information and resources for everyone interested or invested in organic and sustainable agriculture.

Find Organic

The current "Client Directory" has been renamed "Find Organic," and has a much easier to read "results" listings. It also has a new filter that allows searches by producer type (produc-

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Cori Skolaski, Executive Director

AS THE NEW YEAR BEGINS, IT'S NATURAL TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE, SPEND SOME TIME REFLECTING BACK ON 2016, AND CONSIDER ALL THE THINGS FOR WHICH WE HAVE TO BE GRATEFUL: family, friends, health, happiness, safety, security...and also high on our list is you, the organic community. Thanks to your year-round good and hard work, the organic industry is expanding and thriving, more people have organic options at their local farmers' market or grocery store, and you're sustaining and improving the earth. Thank you for using your time and talents in this way, for following all the rules, for doing your seed searches, for using OMRI-listed materials, for filling out your paperwork, and for walking the walk. I wish you the very best in the new year, and may your days be merry and bright.

As of this writing, the MOSES Organic Farming Conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin is right around the corner. MOSA will have a booth, and as La Crosse is just a short drive from our offices, many of our staff will be in at-

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CERTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE

by Jackie DeMinter, Certification Policy Manager

National Organic Program Updates

Part of our work at MOSA is providing comments on documents that are open for public comment. Most recently, we commented on two documents from the National Organic Program (NOP) for publication in their Program Handbook. The Program Handbook was published to provide assistance to the regulated industry by clarifying requirements that have been imposed by the National Organic Standards. Documents are used to explain how the industry may comply with the regulatory requirements. Documents provide standard operating procedures and specific review and enforcement approaches to help ensure that all parties implement the NOP's mandate in an effective, fair, and consistent manner. In preparation for making our comments, we assess the document for completeness, clarity, enforceability, and practicality. We often reach out to our clients to gather feedback to inform our comments. Comments we submit are available on our website.

Of the recent NOP documents, one was an interim instruction – NOP 3012: Material Review. This instruction was aimed at providing certifiers and material review organizations with additional clarification regarding sharing of information or accepting other organizations' materials review decisions and gave directions to follow when a dispute occurs. The NOP notice stated: *"This interim instruction specifies the criteria and process that accredited certifying agents (certifiers) must follow when approving substances for use in organic production and handling. This instruction is directed at certifiers, who must meet certain terms and conditions as part of their accreditation (see 7 CFR 205.501(a)(21)). The instruction defines the term Material Review Organization (MRO) and materials, and describes the USDA organic regulations as they relate to materials reviews. The instruction describes the policy that all certifiers must review all materials used by organic producers and handlers for compliance with the USDA organic regulations, and outlines options that certifiers have for determining whether materials may be used in organic production or handling under the USDA organic regulations. The instruction also outlines certifier requirements for maintaining documentation, making synthetic vs. non-synthetic or agricultural vs. nonagricultural determinations; demonstrating appropriate education, training, and experience levels for personnel conducting material reviews; and creating clear written protocols and procedures related to materials reviews. This instruction also outlines the process that occurs when different certifying agents and MROs reach different conclusions on whether a product complies with the USDA organic regulations."* MOSA's comments gave appreciation for the additional guidance on materials review, but encouraged that even more guidance be developed. We encouraged the NOP to develop a scope of accreditation for materials review and to specific review criteria necessary for consistency.

We focused our comments on the questions we have about the draft regarding the acceptability of third party decisions, including what documentation is necessary for decisions accepted. MOSA currently accepts Organic Materials Review Institute and CA Department of Food and Agriculture (Materials Review Organization) decisions, the Environmental Protection Agency (products labeled for organic use), and Washington State Department of Agriculture, a certifier recognized for having a high profile review program. While we do consult with other certifiers about their review decisions, we do not currently accept the decisions of other certifiers. The policies in the document seem to indicate that we would need to be even more in tune with the decision making process for decisions accepted from

third parties. We asked the NOP to clarify *specifically* the documentation certifiers need to do to accept decisions from MROs (OMRI and CDFA), the EPA, and other certifiers, including WSDA. We believe active listing with OMRI, CDFA and WSDA, or for EPA approved products, compliant product labeling, is sufficient verification. Our policy is to approve all inputs for use in context with an operation's individual organic system plan. We verify the products approved by other organizations are being used in a compliant way and that any restrictions for use are followed. We'll look forward to further clarification in this area.

The second NOP document was a draft guidance – NOP 5036 Treated Lumber. The NOP notice stated: *"The draft guidance document announced through this document was developed to clarify the requirements and limitations of the prohibition on treated lumber in organic production. USDA organic regulations (7 CFR part 205) prohibit use of lumber treated with arsenate or other non-allowed synthetic substances in contact with soil and livestock (7 CFR 205.206). Non-allowed synthetic substances include all synthetic substances that are not specifically included on the "National List" at 7 CFR 205.601 through 205-606. The document provides guidance for certifying agents, organic producers, and other interested parties on compliance with 7 CFR 205.206(f), including:*

- *How lumber treated with prohibited substances affects a producer's timeline for obtaining certification;*
- *Where lumber treated with prohibited substances can and cannot be placed on organic farms, for new installations or replacement of existing lumber;*
- *How organic producers can prevent crops and livestock from contacting lumber treated with prohibited substances."*

This document created confusion among certifiers and a lack of continuity and consistency with current practices and the current rule. Our comments focused on unclear areas that seemed to unintentionally create conflict with existing regulations. While there are always areas in new documents that elicit questions, this document also included several clarifications that reinforced MOSA policy and procedures.

Treated lumber is something we see regularly. Common treatments include alkaline copper quaternary (ACQ), copper azole or micronized copper azole (AC2). MOSA's policy is to evaluate lumber that was previously installed for contamination potential. Action by the far is farmer is only required if a potential is observed or reported. As required in the current rule, new and replacement lumber must be untreated, and any treated lumber used **must not** contact organic crops or livestock. Barriers or buffers may be used to separate organic product from the treated wood. In our comments we asked if paint would be an acceptable barrier. We do not currently allow paint as a barrier, since paint is a synthetic material not on the National List, but we do recognize that it *could* be a practical barrier allowed if maintained appropriately. Our comments also encouraged consideration of treatments that *would* be acceptable for addition to the National List. The policies MOSA follows will remain unchanged until final guidance is published. We will keep our clients informed via this newsletter and through certification review of your file.

GMO disclosure and Labeling

Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) or Genetically Engineered (GE) are terms we refer to regularly at MOSA and often we hear news from beyond the organic industry that impacts the organic industry.

see POLICY UPDATES next page

Recently, The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) posted a Policy Memorandum stating how the AMS will establish and maintain consistency between the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard and regulations to implement the standard and the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 and the National Organic Standards. "With a legal requirement to complete rulemaking within the next two years [July 29, 2018], AMS is in the initial planning stages of the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard. During the rulemaking process, when proposing standards for a national bioengineered food disclosure program, AMS' policy to ensure consistency between the two programs will be as follows:

- No certified organic products will require disclosure as bioengineered; and
- No proposed rules for bioengineered food disclosure will require that modifications be made to the USDA organic regulations.

Throughout the rulemaking process for the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard, AMS aims to create a transparent process with multiple opportunities for public participation, including providing comment periods and public meetings. To view the policy memorandum, please go to www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/gmo."

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Updates

Please be aware that if you use nonorganic seeds or planting stock and you use varieties that *could* be genetically modified, your work is increasing, and it seems we can be sure that it will continue to increase. APHIS has recently deregulated additional varieties of corn, potatoes and apples. The corn varieties are resistant to the herbicides dicamba and glufosinate, apples are engineered for enzymatic browning resistance and potatoes are resistant to late blight, have low acrylamide potential, and lowered reducing sugars. APHIS is now considering a petition for deregulation of creeping bentgrass genetically engineered for resistance to the herbicide glyphosate. The good news is that the bentgrass is designed only for golf course use, but the bad news is that reports are unclear about the potential for spread of the gene through pollination. In other news, wheat recently caused a scare in Washington state, where 22 genetically engineered for glyphosate resistance plants were found growing in an unplanted field. Since there are no genetically engineered wheat varieties for sale or in commercial production in the US at this time, APHIS immediately reacted, containing the wheat and ensuring that no GE wheat entered the marketplace. In recent years, the USDA has increased oversight of regulated GE field trials, and as of January 1, 2016 developers are required to apply for a permit for field trials. Since detection of these wheat plants, the FDA has concluded, based on the small number of affected plants and the information about the varieties being tested, "that it is unlikely that the wheat would present any safety concerns if present in the food supply as a result of this incident." More information about decision making can be found on the APHIS news and information page.

Dairy Promotion Update

If you haven't heard the news, The National Dairy Promotion and Research Board (NDPRB) regulations have changed. As of February 29th, 2016 an operation is eligible for exemption regardless of whether the person **requesting the exemption also produces, handles, markets, processes, manufactures, feeds, or imports conventional or nonorganic products**. You now only need to provide a copy of your organic certificate.

Not only has the regulation changed, the process to receive your exemption application has also. We want to remind you of the changes made by the Department of Agriculture for the exemption of organic products from assessment under a Commodity Program Law.

- The exemption period for Organic Exemption Certificates with the NDPRB is now July 1st through June 30th the following year.
- Annual renewal reminders will no longer be sent.
- Applications can be obtained online at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/resources/rp-organic-exemption>
- Or by mail: National Dairy Promotion and Research Board, 10255 West Higgins Road, Suite 900, Rosemont, IL 60018-5616
- Return your packet by May 31st annually to ensure continuity of the exempt status beginning July 1st to the following June 30th.
- If you have any questions, contact the NDPRB at 847-803-9794.

Parasiticide use – Is it Ivomec or ivermectin?

In the case of an emergency, and with MOSA's approval, livestock producers can use parasiticides on the National List of acceptable synthetics. Allowed active ingredients include moxidectin, fenbendazole, and ivermectin. We can't emphasize enough that products must be approved by us prior to use. A mistake clients could make is purchasing an **Ivomec brand product**, assuming it is the same as the **products with ivermectin active ingredient** that we can allow the use of. **They are not always the same.** The Ivomec brand is applied to other products, like Eprinex, with an active ingredient that is not ivermectin. The active ingredient will be in parenthesis by the product name and it is essential you verify that it is one of the three currently on the National List. This mistake may be a thing of the past in the near future. Ivermectin is recommended for removal from the National List. The NOSB, at their meeting in November, will cast their votes and determine the outcome of the listing. If the NOSB votes it off the list, the NOP will take action to remove it, and if/when this happens, we will notify you of the change. ■

COST SHARE UPDATE

by Lexy McManaway, Cost Share Coordinator

Attention Wisconsin Certified Operations:

It's not too late to apply for organic cost share reimbursement.

The Wisconsin cost share program will continue to accept cost share applications through March 31, 2017 or until the program runs out of funds. If you have submitted, your application or thought it was too late, you can still apply.

Questions? Contact Lexy McManaway 608-637-2526, ext 121, or Julie Spec, WIDATCP, 608-224-5134 ■

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tendance. Please drop by and say hello! We'd love to shake your hand, and put a face to your name.

You know what else is right around the corner? The time to update and renew your Organic System Plan and Forms. In 2017, we have changed the due date: your renewal is due to MOSA by April 1. If you renew your Plan on paper, you will receive your annual update packet

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er, producer/handler, handler). We found that our database is being used by a wide array of people, so “Find Organic” makes more sense to consumers or visitors not familiar with our use of “client.”

Certification

Completely changed to put an emphasis on educating new clients about the process, the terminology, and the audit trail for each type of client we work with. To make it easier for those who are just learning about organic certification, we have created unique experiences for farmers, processors, handlers, and for restaurants/retailers.

For current clients, you can still easily bypass all of the beginner information and go directly to the forms you need, or directly to the MyMOSA website in one click.



News and Commentary

This section has been updated to a much more readable format with headers to differentiate between “MOSA News,” “MOSA Commentary” and “Industry News.” Check this section to get important updates from MOSA that may fall in between our newsletter editions.

New MOSA Staff and MOSA Board of Directors Page

If you need to reach one of the MOSA staff or board members, you can do it quickly through our new “People” page. Simply hover over any picture, and you can email that person. It is also a nice way to get to know the MOSA staff- we have quite a few new people!

Classifieds

The new classified section (buy and sell listings for our clients) gets a major overhaul. Instead of a long list, each post gets its own box and all listings can be filtered by type (For Sale, Wanted, All).

The MOSA Experience

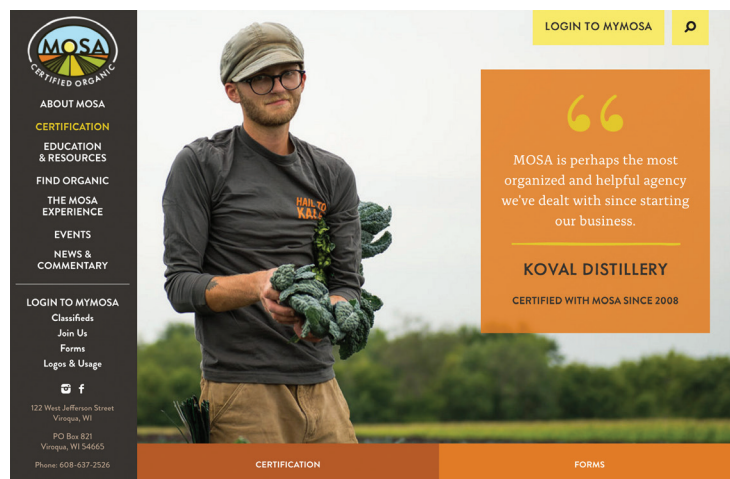
This section will highlight stories about MOSA clients. A great place to learn the stories, techniques and strategies of our diverse and successful farmers and processors.

The New MOSA Logo

MOSA clients can download the new MOSA logo in PNG and EPS formats directly from the new website. There is also a link to the USDA Organic seal and detailed instructions on how to use both. In addition to the standard color and black and white MOSA logos, we have also created a “reversed” logo, and a color logo with reversed lettering. These reversed logos are for use on dark backgrounds. With four options in two formats, you can find the MOSA logo that best meets your label needs. (More on the new logo page 5)

Other Features

The site features many modern website design elements to make it easier to navigate and find what you need. Because certification can be complicated, and because there are often many forms, we use “accordions” to keep the information categorized and compact. Instead of having to scroll through many listings, you can click on a category, which then expands so you only see that information. No more endless lists!



MyMOSA

In addition to new graphics, we have improved the experience by making the application process more clear, updated the progress bar to help you through the process, and added a way to pay expedited fees online. Thank you for your feedback, it has helped us to improve our electronic application system. We encourage everyone with high speed internet to try MyMOSA, it really does make the application process easier, and you can instantly access your files no matter where you are!

You can check out the new MOSA Certified Organic website, and all of the new features, at the same address: MOSA Certified Organic (mosaorganic.org)

MyMOSA is available at: MyMOSA (mymosa.neworg.com) ■

MOSA HAS UPDATED OUR LOGO!

By Joe Pedretti, Outreach Manager

You may have noticed that the newsletter and the pictures of the new website feature a brand new MOSA logo. At the same time we decided to upgrade our website, we decided to also update our logo. While we liked the color and look of the old logo, we also recognized that it had some issues that needed to be addressed. The biggest of these issues was that the words “certified organic” underneath our name become difficult to read when the logo is printed at the smaller sizes that clients use on their product labels. In addition, the blocky lettering was too heavy, and the colors a little too bright.



We considered a completely new design, but ultimately decided to “evolve” the logo rather than completely change it. This way, consumers and clients will still recognize it as the MOSA logo, but with an emphasis on “certified organic,” which is the most important label claim on your packaging. The darkened colors and simplified graphics should also work better with label designs and color schemes.



We also recognized the need to improve the print quality of the logo, so instead of JPG files, the logo is now available on our website as a high definition PNG file. To accommodate different software and graphic design programs, we also have it available in EPS, AI, and PDF formats. Email or call us if you need one of these specialized formats.

We review a lot of product labels for our clients. There is a huge diversity of designs, sizes and color schemes. To make it even easier to find a MOSA logo that works for you, we created additional designs that will give you the perfect option for your packaging and marketing needs. The first option is the standard black and white version if you don't want to use a color logo.



New to the lineup are “reversed” logos. Reversed logos are perfect for use on dark backgrounds. Now instead of using a grayscale version, you can use either a color logo with white lettering, or a completely white logo, both of which look amazing on dark backgrounds, which are common on label packaging.



Implementation

The official changeover date for our logo is when the new website goes live on January 12, 2017. From this point on, all new clients, and all new labels will need to use the new MOSA logo. We do recognize that many of you have labels in inventory. You are not required to update existing inventories until

your next redesign. Both logos will be valid on existing packaging. When your labels come up for redesign and review, you will be asked to update the logo. We do not want to cause any unnecessary expense for any of our clients, so please call us if you have concerns or extenuating circumstances with updating the MOSA logo.

As many of you are probably aware, the FDA is requiring a new nutritional label format within the next two years. Manufacturers will need to use the new label by July 26, 2018. However, manufacturers with less than \$10 million in annual food sales will have an additional year to comply. We will use the FDA compliance dates as the official final changeover to our new logo. This will allow you to minimize or avoid any additional expenses due to our logo change. For more details on the new FDA rule, visit the Changes to the Nutritional Facts Label page on their website. As always, we expect there to be some exceptions, so just give us a call. ■

MYMOSA
CERTIFIED ORGANIC



MOSA NEWS

Office Closure

The MOSA office will be closed to walk-in visitors during the week of February, 20-24. As part of our office renovation, contractors will be removing old office fixtures and installing new cubicles, desks and furniture. MOSA staff will be available by phone and email during our normal business hours- 8:30-4:30 Central.

New Renewal Application Deadline

The renewal application for current MOSA clients has been moved to April 1, 2017. In the past, May 1 has been our official deadline. An earlier deadline will allow us to complete initial reviews and schedule inspections a little earlier in the season. New early bird deadlines also apply. See complete details in your Renewal Application Packet for 2017. ■

DECISIONS, DIVISIONS AND POETRY – NOSB IN ST. LOUIS

by Stephen Walker, Operations Manager

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) met in mid-November for its Fall 2016 meeting, in St. Louis, MO. Nearly 2800 written comments from various organic stakeholders were considered, and the NOSB heard around 200 more comments at the meeting – over 13 hours of testimony. MOSA sent five staff to the meeting. Again, we heard a lot of passionate and eloquent words, brought forth by agenda discussion items including: hydroponics; defining newly-developing genetic engineering technologies and preventing their entry into organic systems; strengthening organic seed requirements; and removing the organic food allowance for carrageenan, and the allowance for ivermectin in organic livestock production. The Board took action on 19 proposals, considered eight discussion documents and reports, and voted on National List inputs up for their 2018 sunset review. Highlights, with some words of passion, are below.

Hydroponics, and Other Container Production

There was drama and an elevated air of gravity throughout the week as farmers and entrepreneurs presented a range of opinions on consistency, or not, between organic principles and hydroponics and other contained production systems.

MOSA presented written and oral comments on these and several other meeting issues. In a webinar ahead of the St. Louis meeting, Certification Specialist Kristen Adams spoke to organic principles. *"We support the continued expansion of the organic industry into new systems that are sustainable and in line with organic principles. The standards are rooted in improving and maintaining our whole environment. The backbone of organic production is about complex natural interactions and symbiotic relationships. While we're traditionally focused on soil ecology, we recognize that life and all of its diversity exists in a continuum of living conditions, not just those reliant on soil. An organic producer's role is to nurture and steward the complex interactions found in nature, to foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. Soil is a part, but holistic thinking is the heart."*

MOSA sponsored the National Organic Coalition (NOC) Pre-NOSB meeting, where an effort to gather opinion on more traditional container production led to more opinions about the hydroponic end of the production continuum. In its written comments, NOC stated, *"Although there exists a continuum of methods used in greenhouses and utilizing various 'containers,' we believe that the distinction between the ends of the continuum... is clear enough for the NOSB to vote on whether hydroponics/aquaponics/biaponics should be eligible to be certified organic. We fully support the... separation of hydroponics/aquaponics/biaponics from other containerized methods for the purpose of NOSB deliberation, and we support the process of addressing the other containerized methods through a discussion document."*

Many comments considered lack of biologic activity and carbon sequestration in hydroponic systems. In his oral comments at the meeting, organic farmer and Hydroponic and Aquaponic Task Force member Dave Chapman showed a coco coir doormat as a comparison to the lifeless coir substrate used to anchor plant roots in some hydroponic systems. NOC comments pointed out J.I. Rodale's definition of organic as *"a system whereby a fertile soil is maintained by applying nature's own law of replenishing it – that is, by adding organic matter to preserve humus rather than using chemical fertilizers,"* and reiterated Chapman's written comments, *"There is the belief that organic should be solely defined by the use of approved 'natural' fertilizers, pesticides, and other inputs, and the 'growing medium' becomes unimportant. This perspective favors the approach of conventional agriculture: 'Feed the plant, not the*

soil.' By this logic, a tomato grown in coconut husks can be organic as long as it is fed approved fertilizers and is only sprayed with approved pesticides. By this logic, a chicken can live all its life in a factory and still be organic, as long as it is fed organic grain and is only treated with approved medicines." NOC comments added, *"We believe that proponents of biaponics have muddled the definition... by claiming that soil ecology operates in biaponics. Biaponics may rely on biological activity in the nutrient solution to break down complex molecules and make them available to the plants. And the nutrient solution in biaponics has an ecology –as all biological systems do. But to call this a 'soil ecology' is incorrect. It does not involve soil organisms that interact with crops in the symbiotic fashion of an ecological community."*

Discussion also considered alternative growing systems' benefits for changing times. Organic consumer Beth Walker Stephenson, of Viroqua, gave testimony illustrating these implications. *"I think a lot about my family's food. I never thought I'd be debating raising our food other than in the soil. But... I am making comment today because of a feeling in my bones that we must carefully consider the implications of closing the door on organic alternatives to growing in soil. Key concerns for me are food security and safety, in our uncertain world... The morning after the election, I hugged (my daughter) close, placed my hand over her heart and said, 'Don't ever forget you were born at this time for a reason.' In my 53 years, I've learned that life presents many shades of gray. There are fewer absolutes. I see both sides. An open mind can make decisions difficult. At the National Organic Coalition meeting I heard elders' deep concern about impacting economics and principles if we open organic production beyond soil. But now, more than ever, we must consider new ideas and ways."*

With recognition of the contentiousness in the room, ahead of Crops Subcommittee discussion and voting, National Organic Program Deputy Administrator Miles McEvoy paused to read Wendell Berry's "Peace of Wild Things."

*When despair grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting for their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

For all the gravity and divisions of opinion, comments and discussion were notably respectful. After some challenging wordsmithing via Robert's Rules, which NOSB Chair Tracy Favre compared to "making sausage in public," the NOSB passed a resolution reaffirming a prohibition on systems with entirely water based substrates.

"The NOSB respects the efforts of the former NOSB that led to their 2010 recommendation on terrestrial plants in greenhouses. The NOSB recognizes that the foundation of organic agriculture is based upon a systems approach to producing food in the natural environment, which respects the complex dynamic interaction between soil, water, air, sunlight and animals needed to produce a thriving agro-ecosystem. At the heart of the organic philosophy is the belief that our responsibilities of good stewardship go beyond production of healthy food and include protection of natural resources, biodiversity and

see NOSB next page

the ecosystem services upon which we all depend. We encourage future NOSB to consider this wider perspective as the board undertakes the challenges of assessing and defining innovations in agriculture that may be compatible in a system of organic production. In the case of the hydroponic/aquaponic issue, it is the majority (opinion) of the current members of the NOSB to prohibit hydroponic systems that have an entirely water based substrate. Although that was the original intent of the proposal before us today, the current proposal as structured does not achieve this objective. While the majority of NOSB does not believe that the liquid substrate systems should be sold under the USDA organic label, these growers deserve the chance to promote their very commendable qualities and objectives in their own right."

The resolution passed with near consensus. Some objected to not calling out other systems wholly dependent on liquid fertility inputs. The Crops Subcommittee will work on formal proposals around hydroponics and crops grown in containers and in greenhouses.

Updating Genetic Engineering Definitions

The National Organic Standards prohibit the use of "excluded methods," based on a 1995 definition which still works fairly well, but needs updating. We've seen rapid synthetic biology development since 1995. New definitions have been under discussion since 2013.

Crops Subcommittee Chair Zea Sonnabend summarized the proposal and many public comments on the subject. Starting her remarks, she welcomed to the meeting any representatives from Monsanto - headquartered in St. Louis. She also responded to some opinions that the proposal needed more discussion, simply saying "4 years, 7 comment periods; we're ready." She stated it could not be more clear that now is the time to pass the proposal to clarify GMO methods prohibited in organic.

Among the many comments received on the issue, Sonnabend highlighted some words from Demeter Association's Co-Director Jim Fullmer. *"An important line in the sand is drawn in the current 1st sentence of the NOP definition of excluded methods: 'A variety of methods used to genetically modify organisms or influence their growth and development by means that are not possible under natural conditions or processes and are not considered compatible with organic production...' It is important to not lose this core scaffold branch when pondering the myriad of new and old genetic modification techniques finding their way through the organic decision tree... This still provides a key foundation that should continue to be referenced as this discussion progresses towards future decisions. We feel CRISPR-case.9, manipulated gene drives, cytoplasmic male sterility and a myriad of processes of so called 'synthetic biology' should be excluded from NOP organic production. Methods used to genetically modify organisms, or influence their growth, in an organic farming system should reflect the wisdom and inherent methods of the natural world that has evolved the very existence of plants and animals over thousands of years. While this might sound simplistic, or even Luddite, in fact it is the opposite. The natural world, or the life of the Earth herself as a living organism- if you will- is based on complex biological diversity, living interconnected dynamics and self-regulation. There is tremendous technological benefit in observing, understanding and implementing these facts of the living world as agronomic tools."*

The NOSB unanimously passed the excluded methods terminology recommendation, naming specific prohibited technologies on a chart to be revised as needed to keep pace with scientific development, and including definitions and principles to guide assessment of new technologies.

Strengthened Seed Guidance

The NOSB heard more feedback on maintaining organic seed purity, including preventing GMO incursion into organic systems. Recent NOSB meetings included a couple GMO discussion documents, a report, GMO prevention strategies discussion, and an expert panel. The NOSB will send a report to the Secretary of Agriculture summarizing their progress in preventing GMO incursion, while urging further USDA GMO discussion and prioritizing organic protections. Meanwhile, the organic community is united in favor of a seed purity standard, but there's concern that setting a GMO tolerance threshold without strong data may unfairly penalize organic farmers for others' genetic trespass. The Crops Subcommittee will draft a proposal to strengthen NOP Guidance 5029 for organic seed.

At MOSA, we're investigating increasing reports of GMO contamination in organic seed and feed, and struggle with reasonable enforcement. I presented our midwestern perspective on the seed purity issue. *"We applaud strengthened guidance to aid organic seed supply, usage, and enforcement. But, we also question the overall efficacy of enforcement in the face of ongoing GMO incursion. The report to Secretary Vilsack needs ears. Clearly, the public expects organic to be GMO-free. Organic operators are doing their part, but without meaningful shared responsibility, coexistence cannot work, and our organic label is harmed. USDA leadership must promote fairness. Unfortunately, today, planting organic seed may not stop further GMO incursion. Until we get our organic seed house in order, it'll be nearly impossible for an organic farmer to produce truly non-GMO at risk crops. So, this gets at a moral question of who should be responsible. We won't meet consumers' organic purity expectations unless we have USDA support, beyond the NOP. We continue this good fight, but it can't just be our organic community making the effort. Otherwise, coexistence is a fantasy, especially right here in your breadbasket."*

We also heard an organic seed status report from Kiki Hubbard of the Organic Seed Alliance. Most organic farmers still rely on conventional seed. Only 27% of organic growers use all organic seed. And organic seed use is lower on larger acreages. Vegetable growers with under 10 acres have about 75% of their acreage planted in organic seed, but growers with over 480 acres had on average only 30% of their acreage planted in organic seed. Hubbard echoed strengthening NOP seed guidance, increasing certifier vigilance in enforcing organic seed usage, developing an organic seed database, and addressing GMO issues.

Ivermectin

Ivermectin is an emergency use parasiticide that's been allowed in organic livestock production. A recent sunset review garnered strong support for removing ivermectin from the National List, but it was reluctantly relisted, with further review making changes to the restrictions for other emergency-use parasiticides, moxidectin and fenbendazole. With this secondary proposal, the NOSB unanimously voted to remove Ivermectin's National List allowance, due to the availability of alternatives and its negative impact on dung beetles. This change would affect some MOSA-certified livestock producers. But, we'll have to wait on rulemaking, and NOP and NOC meeting discussion noted the limited "pipeline" for regulatory changes, and an uncertain future for organic rulemaking prioritization after January. For now, ivermectin will remain allowed with its restrictions until if and when rulemaking is complete. However, organic livestock producers should start thinking about managing parasites without use of ivermectin.

Carrageenan

Carrageenan is a seaweed-derived food additive commonly used as a thickener or stabilizer, which gained a lot of sunset review attention. Food processors spoke in favor of maintaining carrageenan's availability for use in organic foods, noting its usefulness and safety. But consumer groups, social media posts, and public comments warned of human health concerns, including industry-funded research showing links to gastrointestinal inflammation and ulcerative colitis. Epidemiological studies of this food sensitivity were not in their reviewed literature, but the Subcommittee acknowledged the food sensitivity concerns' legitimacy, yet also noted that carrageenan usually must be listed on food labels.

Comments also illustrated the global impact of NOSB decisions. An Indonesian government representative delivered a petition signed by 6500 seaweed farmers to keep carrageenan on the National List. Carrageenan provides a significant income for fishermen around the world and is essential for livelihood of small farmers. Discussion also raised the possibility that carrageenan can be produced organically. The NOSB voted to remove carrageenan as an allowed ingredient in organic food, beginning in 2018, primarily due to the availability of alternatives.

Inspector Evaluations

MOSA has been outspoken on requirements of NOP Instruction 2027 on annual performance evaluations for inspectors. The instruction says every inspector should be evaluated in the field every year. We've been able to accomplish this, and see the benefits of on-site evaluations, but it's been expensive and logistically challenging. The NOSB sought feedback on benefits, costs, logistics, and collaboration challenges. MOSA's Executive Director Cori Skolaski presented comment including, *"MOSA's recommended solution is to perform onsite evaluations on a three-year cycle combined with a risk-based approach... in the current year when a new inspector is hired... when a new scope is added... and/or when a concern is noted by operator or reviewer feedback. Our goal for personnel performance evaluations is to promote the professional development and continuous quality improvement of inspectors. Unfortunately, complying with NOP 2027 has almost completely erased our ability to be thoughtful and strategic."*

The Certification and Compliance Subcommittee will develop a proposal for revising instruction based on public comment.

Many decisions on allowed inputs

The NOP voted against all nine petitions to add synthetic inputs to the National List. This continues a no growth trend for the List over the last 10 years.

Among petitions, we considered soy wax for use as inoculant plugs in mushroom production. MOSA Policy Manager Jackie DeMinter suggested more clarity in the proposed annotation to require wax be from non-GMO soybeans, when organic beans were not available. This would have set a new precedent. *"We suggest the complete production of soy wax be considered and encourage the NOSB to require the soy oil be organic as well. That would seem more in line with organic principles. If we exclude the production of the soy oil, then it seems the intent to require organic is negated. Would a soy wax manufacturer be motivated to search out soy oil produced from organic soybeans? Lack of commercial availability seems as if it would be the standard. We are not concerned regarding verification when organic soybeans are used, but we do have questions about oversight and appropriate verification when nonorganic soybeans are used."*

The petition was rejected because there was not enough producer support submitted in the comment period.

Other denied petitions included: Oat Protein Concentrate (protein and amino acid source); 1-Methylcyclopropene (post-harvest treatment to delay apple aging); Ammonium Citrate and Ammonium Glycinate (chelating agents); Potassium Cellulose Glycolate (water filtration aid during irrigation); and Aluminum Sulfate, Sodium Bisulfate and Acid Activated Bentonite (animal litter treatments).

Two discussions were referred back for more work: a petition for Sodium Chlorite for making chlorine dioxide gas used as an antimicrobial pesticide, sanitizer, or disinfectant in direct contact with fruits and vegetables; and, a proposal to change the current annotation for tocopherols - vitamin E compounds that preserve freshness in products with fats and oils - to give more preference for nonsynthetic or organic tocopherols.

Except for Carrageenan, all inputs up for their 2018 sunset review were re-approved and will remain on the National List for another five years. Re-approved Handling materials include: Agar-agar; animal enzymes; Calcium Sulfate; Glucono delta-lactone; Tartaric acid - made from grape wine; cellulose; potassium hydroxide; Silicon dioxide; and, Beta-carotene extract color. Re-listed crop materials include: Copper sulfate used in aquatic rice production to control algae or tadpole shrimp; Ozone gas for use as an irrigation system cleaner only; Peracetic acid for use in disinfecting equipment, seed, and asexually propagated planting material and to control fire blight bacteria; EPA List 3 inerts of unknown toxicity for use in passive pheromone dispensers; and Calcium chloride, prohibited for use except as a foliar spray to treat a physiological disorder associated with calcium uptake.

Looking ahead

We heard a report on NOP accomplishments and new rules under development. Of 178 NOSB recommendations over the past 20 years, the NOP has addressed 149, 24 are in process, and just five are outstanding. Although the election leaves open questions on timelines, we expect the following developments as we head into 2017: issuance of final rules on Origin of Livestock and Livestock and Poultry practices; proposed rules on Aquaculture, Apiculture, Pet Food and Import Certificates; policy developments on compost, improving oversight and control of organic trade (including: eliminating exclusions for brokers and importers, expiration dates on certificates, unannounced inspections, clarification of compliance procedures, and identification of nonretail organic products); final guidance on Classification of Materials; draft guidance on Grower Groups, Calculation of Organic Ingredients, and Materials Used in Livestock Production.

In addition to the above, we also expect more instruction to improve USDA oversight and capacity for regulating imported organic products. This was a hot topic at the NOD meeting, as the NOP's Miles McEvoy responded to concerns about oversight of organic grains coming to the US from Eastern Europe by way of Turkey. The Organic Farmers' Agency for Relationship Marketing (OFARM) reports that during the first six months of 2016, there was a 36-fold increase in the dollar value of organic imports from Turkey compared to the same time period in 2015. OFARM Director John Bobbe emphatically raised alarms about incentive and potential for fraud when growing organic markets create supply shortages for various commodities. *"These long international supply chains increase the opportunities for breaks in the chain of recordkeeping, organic certification and verification that the USDA organic seal is built upon... We need the USDA to make sure that organic imports are meeting the same organic standards that U.S. producers do."*

The NOSB also established research priorities for 2016, including: methionine evaluation for organic poultry, with a systems approach; parasites management; biodegradable biobased mulch film; alternatives to copper for disease and algae control; plant disease management; mitigating residues in compost; chlorine materials and alternatives; celery powder; alternatives to Bisphenol A (BPA); consumer demand; fate of genetically engineered plant material in compost; and, breeding lines' integrity and ways to mitigate small amounts of GMO contamination.

NOSB committee work plans are extensive. Highlights include ongoing work on hydroponics, container and greenhouse production, anaerobic digestate - food waste and other manure issues, organic seed requirements, packaging substances including BPA, annotation changes for phosphates and for nutrient vitamins and minerals, marine algae listings, defining emergency treatment for livestock parasites, and ongoing work on seed purity and excluded methods terminology.

This work will be taken up by a Board including five new members, who begin their terms on January 24th. New appointees include: Dr. Asa Bradman, Berkeley, CA (environmental protection and resource conservation expert); Steve Ela, Hotchkiss, CO, (organic producer); Dr. David Mortensen, State College, PA, (toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry expert); Joelle Mosso, Fresno, CA, (organic handler), and Sue Baird, Bunceton, MO, (public or consumer interest group representative). Sue currently also serves on MOSA's Board. New NOSB officers are Tom Chapman (Chair), Ashley Swaffar (Vice-Chair) and Jesse Buie (Secretary).

Parting Words

After Fall meeting work was concluded, parting NOSB members had the floor, to offer final reflections. Ahead of these poignant closing moments, Miles McEvoy honored members' work with one more poem, "To Be of Use" by Marge Piercy. An excerpt...

*"...I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart,
who pull like water buffalo, with massive patience,
who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward,
who do what has to be done, again and again.*

*I want to be with people who submerge
in the task, who go into the fields to harvest
and work in a row and pass the bags along,
who are not parlor generals and field deserters
but move in a common rhythm
when the food must come in or the fire be put out..."*

I've paraphrased some NOSB members' parting words below. Outgoing Chair Tracy Favre said, "This has been the most rewarding professional experience of my life... There are very few easy decisions that come to this Board, many shades of gray... Our discussion ends up with a stronger outcome, and there's rarely one single right answer." Jean Richardson said "Always strive for consensus, always, always... And work to make the organic pie bigger, so that there is a piece for everyone... And, be kind and loving and very forgiving toward each other all the time." Through some tears, Carmela Beck shared her hope for the organic community, that it focusses on being inclusive, collegial and welcoming diversity of all colors. Harold Austin noted, "Hearing both sides of the debate helps us to grow... For those Board members sunseting with me, I love you guys to death... I hope those that take our place understand there are two sides to every issue, and the decisions we make impact livelihoods. We've worked too hard to go back too far." And Zea Sonnabend said anyone doing this work needs

passion and a muse or two. She credited her muses - Bob Dylan, and Jerry Garcia - cited some Grateful Dead song lyrics (from "Throwing Stones," "Playin' in the Band," "Saint of Circumstance," "Terrapin Station" and "Box of Rain"), and concluded by singing Dylan's "Forever Young," including...

*"May your hands always be busy
May your feet always be swift
May you have a strong foundation
When the winds of changes shift"*

Before our relatively short trip home, we had a little time to check out some of our Central West End neighborhood, including the 1371 acre civic center across the street, Forest Park, and, several blocks away, the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis, which has one of the largest mosaic collections in the world - 41.5 million glass tiles covering 83000 square feet. Let's say, "awesome." I also was taken with the Angel of Harmony statue on the Basilica grounds. Its theme - harmony, peace, and racial justice. It was a nice way to end a provocative meeting week, and to help digest this time of change.

For this season, dona nobis pacem. ■

cont. DIRECTOR from page 3

in the mail in the next few weeks. It will be clearly marked as coming from MOSA, so please don't set it aside - April 1 will be here before you know it. If you update your Plan online, at the same time we mail the packets we'll send you an email reminder with a link to MyMOSA.

Along with the earlier due date, we are expanding our Early Bird discounts. If you submit your completed update and payment to us by mail or online by February 15 you will receive a \$75 Early Bird Discount; if you submit by March 15 the Early Bird Discount is \$25. Conversely, if you need a little extra time to complete it, call or email us on or before April 1 to request a 15-day extension. The fee for the extension is \$60, compared to the late fee of \$150 per month. So if you think you might be running late, an extension request may be the way to go.

We recognize moving the deadline up one month to April 1 is a fairly significant change; however, we feel that the gain in the quality of our customer service is well worth the effort. When we don't receive all of our clients' updated Plans until May, nearly half the year has passed before we even get a peek at your updates during our initial review and we bump into scheduling issues with our contract inspectors. With this earlier date, we will be able to complete our initial reviews and assign inspections in a more timely and efficient manner. So please do your best to submit your 2017 annual update to us by April 1.

As the organic industry continues to expand, so does MOSA. We recently welcomed several new Certification Specialists to our staff: Chuck Anderas and Sara Tedeschi joined us in December, Lynne Haynor in February, and Andrea Holm starts in February. They come to us with varied and relevant experience in the organic industry, and we are very happy to have them join (and in the case of Sara and Lynne - rejoin) our team.

As always, if you have any questions or comments about anything in this newsletter - or about MOSA - please feel free to contact me at cskolaski@mosaorganic.org or 608-637-2526. Thank you for reading, and thanks for your continued commitment to organic integrity. ■

CLASSIFIEDS

LIVESTOCK

Wanted: Will custom raise organic calves. Contact Daniel Borntrager: W14686 County Road H, Melrose, WI 54642.

For Sale: MOSA Certified, Grass-Fed, Belted Galloway Breeding Stock. Unique genetics for beef tenderness. Michael and Lorna Caldwell of Caldwell Farms (Milladore, WI) are selling select, registered Belted Galloways this year. Visit www.beltiebeef.com to view a video of our Belties. Please call 715-457-6765 or email belties@caldwellfarms.com for details.

LAND/FARMS

For Sale: L-2003: 76 ACRE CERTIFIED ORGANIC DAIRY FARM, DEERBROOK, WI- PARCEL 1: Approx 38 acres with approx 35 acres tillable, fenced for rotational grazing. Buildings consist of a 52-stall barn, 3 bdrm 1-1/2 bath home, new well & mound septic, and 2-1/2 car garage. PARCEL 2: Approx 38 acres with approx 33 acres tillable. There are (2) 2-bdrm homes, a 30'x36' shop, and a 23-stall dairy barn. Includes a full line of well-kept machinery, and 78 head of certified organic dairy cattle. \$590,000.00 complete. Contact NOLAN SALES LLC, Marion, WI, at 800-472-0290 or www.nolansales.com for details.

For Sale: 115 acres m/l, east of Viola, WI. Two homes, farmed without chemicals for the last 21 years. Approximately 46 acres tillable, 30 acres pasture, balance in woods. Tillable currently rented and certified organic. 4 bdrm older farm house with 1/2 basement, new siding, well insulated. Old barn with 28 tie stalls, lean-to, silo. Second house, secluded log home 21 x 36, 2 story, full basement, solar powered with a 30 x 80 machine shed. Call 608-606-1772 or 1306.

For Sale: 80 Acre certified organic Farm. (by MOSA) 4 bedroom home, 1 bath, new siding and windows. 2 stall detached garage. 43 tie stall barn with freshcow pen. New metal roof. 18x75 silo, 18x50 silo. 40x80 heifer shed with head locks. 40x100 shed/shop. 50x120 machine shed. Long Prairie, MN. Call for more info. 320-630-5143.

EQUIPMENT

WTB- Wanted- electric weed killing device similar to the Lasco EDS Lightning Weeder. Need up to a 12row. Please email specifications, location, and cost. erm1586@mahaska.org

For Sale: New I&J Manufacturing cover crop roller & horse driven implements. Organic Roots Way is a dealer located in Camp Douglas WI. Contact Joel for info and pricing shipped directly to your address. 608-427-3423.

MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: Certified organic molasses. 5 gallon pails. FOB Verona Wisconsin 53593. \$70/pail. Discounts for larger quantities. Pure Sweet Honey Farm 608-845-9601, psh@chorus.net.

For Sale: Mr.K's garlic tincture & garlic vinegar approved for use as treatment in organic production. Helps with mastitis, scours, etc... 330-674-3999 x3.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted: Plovgh is hiring an Operations Manager, to start as soon as possible. Plovgh organizes custom crop contracts for farmers and buyers, provides specialty supply chain support, and facilitates direct product distribution for food-makers. The position we're filling focuses on establishing and managing relationships with seed houses, freight companies, grain testing facilities, seed cleaners, and mills. For more information about Plovgh, visit Plovgh.com. To apply, please send a note describing your experience and interests to hello@plovgh.com.

Help Wanted: Sandbox Organics is a 3 acre (and growing) certified Organic farm located an hour north of Chicago in Grayslake, Illinois. We raise a wide range of high quality vegetables for our Chicago based CSA, farmer's market, and restaurants, as well as pastured hogs. We are a young farm, entering our third growing season. We are working on developing an environmentally and financially sustainable farm business that supports its workers and community through meaningful work and nutritious food. We are looking for two full-time seasonal workers to help with daily farm tasks for the 2017 season. Positions start early April through the end of October. If interested please submit a cover letter and resume with 3 professional references to SandboxOrganics@gmail.com

Help Wanted: Assistant Farm Manager. Cherry Tree House Mushrooms is a farm in northwest Wisconsin, near the Twin Cities specializing in organic log-grown mushrooms. We're seeking a full-time manager who will assist with or manage the farm in owner's absence. Applicants should have experience on farms and managing the work of interns, as well as the ability to work autonomously. No previous experience with mushroom cultivation necessary. Competitive salary, regular time off, and housing available. Find more details at: <https://cherrytreehousemushrooms.com/full-time-farm-manager-wanted/>

Help Wanted: Farm couple wanted for a 70 cow organic dairy farm. Full time position with every other weekend off. Nice 2-story house provided. Appliances included. Wage based on experience. Opportunity to work toward herd ownership. Central WI. For additional information please call 715-200-1673.

VEGETABLES/SEEDS/TRANSPLANTS

FOR SALE: Organic Seed Potatoes. Great prices. Double Certified: MOSA + Wisconsin Seed Potato Program. 18 varieties. Produced at Vermont Valley Community Farm LLC, Blue Mounds, Wisconsin. On-farm pick up, regional distribution sites or delivery arranged. Place your order early to ensure full product availability! 608-212-7816 <http://www.organicpotatoseed.com/>

For Sale: MOSA certified organic VNS Hairy Vetch seed. 86% germ, no weeds, state tested. \$155.00 per 50 lb. bag FOB. Cash discounts and volume discounts available. Call for details 419-929-4304

For Sale: Certified Organic Garlic Seed from Vermont Valley Community Farm LLC. Chesnok Red, German, Italian Red, and Musik. Follow this link for details and ordering information: <http://contacta.cc/2bEApej>

For Sale: Certified Organic Garlic Seed. Planting Seed stock with over 20 organic varieties - Music, German White, Chesnok Red, German Red, Armenian, Georgian Crystal, and many more. Keene Garlic, Sun Prairie, WI. 608-215-7599 or www.keeneorganics.com.

FORAGES & GRAINS

For Sale: Certified Organic Baleage and Dry Hay; large square bales for dairy, beef and horses. Forage test results available. Delivery can be arranged. Supplier of quality organic hay since 2007. Over 1,000 bales ready for immediate loading. Deep discount for large orders. Priced to sell. Call Charley 608-634-3886 or 608-553-0087.

For Sale: Certified Organic Hay. Large squares and rounds. Also organic oats and straw in large squares and rounds. Sauk Centre, MN. Call Kyle at 320-429-0557.

For Sale: MOSA Certified Small square bales of second and third crop hay. Alfalfa-grass-clover no rain-baled dry-weed free. Very nice hay, quality tests available. Elk Mound, WI. Please call 715-577-4577.

For Sale: MOSA Certified 1st, 2nd & 3rd Crop Alfalfa-Grass-Clover Baleage. Elk Mound, WI. Please call 715-577-4577 or 715-879-5572.

For Sale: Mosa Organic 2015 Corn roasted approximately 4000-5000 bu. 12-14% moisture. Brodhead, WI. Contact- Ervin @ 608-426-1726 or Milton @ 608-921-3765.

For Sale: 4th Crop Organic Balage. Alfalfa/Grass. 3x3x5.5 large squares. Good quality, call for test results. NE WI. Call 920-366-9708.

For Sale: Retiring. Dry hay 4'x5' rounds. MOSA certified organic, 73 bales 1st crop \$30. each, 70 bales 2nd crop \$50.each, 15 bales 3rd \$60. each. Nice grass/ alfalfa mix , NO rain, tested good! Stored inside. Larry Sprotte Farm, Medford, WI. 715-748-6863 or cell 715-560-1501.

EVENTS

JANUARY 2017

Wisconsin School for Beginning Market Farmers

Jan. 6-8 | \$295-325 | Madison, Wisc.

<http://www.cias.wisc.edu/wisconsin-school-for-beginning-market-growers/>

Illinois Specialty Crops, Agritourism, and Organic Conference

Jan. 11-13 | \$75+ | Springfield, Ill.

<http://www.specialtygrowers.org/>

Minnesota Organic Conference

Jan. 12-13 | \$140 | St. Cloud, Minn.

MOSA will have a booth. <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/food/organic/conference.aspx>

Practical Farmers of Iowa Conference

Jan. 20-21 | Ames, Iowa

<http://practicalfarmers.org/news-events/events/annual-conference/>

Organic Grain Production & Marketing Seminar

Jan. 21-22 | Madison, Wis

<https://www.facebook.com/events/169559963512366/>

Organic Agriculture Research Symposium

Jan. 25-26 | Lexington, Ky.

<http://www.ssawg.org/registration>

EcoFarm Conference

Jan. 25-28 | \$ | Pacific Grove, Calif.

<http://eco-farm.org/conference>

NPSAS Winter Conference

Jan. 26-28 | \$ | Aberdeen, SD

<http://www.npsas.org/npsas-calendar/2017-winter-conference/>

MOA Organic Conference

Jan. 26-28 | \$ | Kansas City Mo.

MOSA will have a booth. <http://www.moaconference.org/>

FEBRUARY 2017

Organicology

Feb. 2-4 | Portland, Ore.

<http://www.organicology.org/>

Grassworks Grazing Conference

Feb. 2-4 | Wisconsin Dells, Wis.

MOSA will have a booth. <http://grassworks.org/events/grazing-conference/?110340>

Organic Vegetable Production Conference

Feb. 3-4 | Madison, Wis.

<https://www.evensi.us/organic-vegetable-production-conference-alliant-energy/190779349>

FSA Opportunities

Feb. 9 | 6-8 p.m. | East Troy, Wis.

<http://michaelfields.org/>

Risk Management in the Emerging Organic Grain Industry

Feb. 16 | \$25 | Central Ill.

<http://thelandconnection.org/farmers/riskmanagement4>

MOSES Organic Farming Conference

Feb. 23-25 | La Crosse, Wis.

MOSA will have a booth. <https://mosesorganic.org/Conference/> ■

For Sale: Approximately 36 acres of Mosa Certified Organic Corn in Holy Cross Iowa. Either out of the field or out of the bin. Willing to work out a deal. Contact Matt at 563-542-1254.

For Sale: Mosa Certified Organic Alfalfa Hay. The bales are 4ft x 5ft and Approx weight is 400- 600 lbs. The bales are net wrapped and have never seen rain or dew the are stored inside the barns as soon as they drop out of the baler. \$40.00 a bale with a 4 bale minimum. Sorry but we do not deliver. Grant, MI area. Contact lynchfarms1@yahoo.com or call 616-901-7741.

For Sale: 2016 Organic Hay. MOSA certified. 3x3x6 large square bales. Dry hay and balage. 100-15- RFV. Transportation available. Wonewoc, WI. Call Kent Wolf at 608-553-1136.

For Sale: 2016 Organic Wheat or Barley Straw. MOSA certified. 3x3x8 large square bales. \$35 per bale. Transportation available. Wonewoc, WI. Call Kent Wolf at 608-553-1136.

For Sale: Certified Organic Shell Corn. 2015 Season. \$6.90 per bu. Located in Southern Wi. Orfordville/Beloit area. Call Ervin at 608-426-1726.

To submit an ad to be posted in the printed version of the Organic Cultivator and on the MOSA website, send it to MOSA, PO Box 821, Viroqua, WI 54665, or email to mosa@mosaorganic.org. All ads will be posted for 60 days free of charge for MOSA clients (100 words max). For non-clients, cost of an ad is \$5.00 for 40 words, and \$0.10 per word over 40 (max 100 words).

MOSA does not guarantee that all products posted on this page are certified organic, and MOSA is not responsible for the accidental purchase of non-organic products through the use of this page. Always check to guarantee the certification status of any product before purchasing or using. ■

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