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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Cori Skolaski, Executive Director

In early January, MOSA clients received their update paperwork either in the mail or by email with a link to their electronic files. You probably noticed that we have increased our fees this year. This was not something that we did without a lot of thought and discussion; we realize how this impacts our clients and we took this increase very seriously. However, it has been five years since we last changed our fees, and in that time the National Organic Program, in its efforts to protect organic integrity, has directed certifiers to expand programs to do so. To that end, we are required to perform an

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the ORGANIC Cultivator

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PREMIER COOPERATIVE 125 YEARS OF COOPERATION

Premier Cooperative is the oldest farmer/consumer supply co-op in the United States. Formed in 1893 by a handful of farmers from Vermont Township, it opened its doors in Black Earth, WI, and was originally called





Patrons' Mercantile Company. After a merger with the Mt. Horeb Farmers Cooperative in 2000, the name was changed to reflect their dedication to "premier products, people, service, facilities, and equipment," noted current CEO Andy Fiene. One of Andy's first jobs when promoted to general manager at Patrons' was to write a comprehensive history of the co-op, which was published in 1993 and is available on the Premier website: [Patrons' Mercantile Cooperative- 100 Year History](#).

The original cooperative building still stands in Black Earth, where they sold dry goods, seed, clothing, farm equipment, feed, tack, and hardware. They later expanded and added fertilizer sales around the same time that they built their first new, state of the art feed mill in 1960.

Major changes in the farming community brought on by increasing consolidation throughout the 70s, 80s and 90s resulted in fewer, larger farms, duplication of services, and overlapping service areas. Many farmers were members of multiple cooperatives. "Consolidation at the farm gate, results in consolidation at all other levels," remarked Andy. "The Patrons' board of directors and the board from Mt. Horeb Farmers Cooperative began talking about the pros and cons of a combined company starting in 1997. It took three years and two tries, but in 2000 the merger was complete. We changed the name to Premier Cooperative, and we moved the HQ to Mt. Horeb. This increased our coverage and services to three communities."

Other mergers and acquisitions quickly followed: Premier merged with Quad County Cooperative in 2004. Quad County had two locations and focused primarily on feed, but had worn out their assets and didn't have the scale and profitability to reinvest. "We needed to grow our feed business. With this merger, we doubled our feed sales, but we still couldn't justify building a new mill," noted Andy. Another merger with Lancaster Farmers Cooperative in 2007 further increased their feed sales and service area, which solidified the co-ops plans to buy a site and build a new feed manufacturing facility in Mineral Point. The co-op broke ground in 2007 and started production in January of 2009.

"The Mineral Point facility is state of the art, fully automated, with pelleting and steam flaking of corn. Due to member requests, we have added 2.1 million bushels of grain drying and storage capacity. Our feed sales went from 3000 tons per month when we opened to 9200 tons per month today, about 85% of which is sold to dairy farms," said Andy.

More mergers and acquisitions followed. In 2008, Premier purchased six agronomy locations in Southwest Wisconsin from Agrilience, an agronomy venture between Land O'Lakes and CHS, as well as a private agronomy company in Eastman, WI. In 2011 Premier



merged with Consumers Cooperative of Richland County, and then, in 2013, with Heartland Country Cooperative in Westby and Cashton, WI. While Premier had offered organic products prior to partnering with Heartland, this was a key event in Premier's foray into certified organic feed and branded organic product sales. Finally, in 2014 Premier purchased a large energy company, fka Charter Fuels, headquartered in Lancaster.

Heartland Country Cooperative was founded in the fall of 1998 by the merger of Cashton Co-op Elevator and Westby Farmers Union Co-op, and focused on energy, feed and agronomy services for its members. Westby is located right in the heart of organic dairy country, with both Organic Valley and Westby Cooperative Creamery nearby. Several of the cooperative members transitioned to organic dairy farming during the 1990s and Heartland began seeing a lot of interest in organic feed, seed and fertilizers.

"Starting in 2001, we began a serious discussion about getting organic certification and offering organic feeds. We were losing farms when they went organic. We reached out to other co-ops and mills about the organic demand. We decided to reopen the Westby mill, that had been shut down for some time, and to get certified. We got certified in 2002, reopened the mill, and began selling organic feed to our customers and to other co-ops. Not long after, we looked into the retail market. We realized that there was a lot of potential in selling smaller, bagged quantities of poultry feed," noted Randy Dahlen, former General Manager for Heartland, and now VP of NW Operations for Premier.

"Organic was a shining star for us. No one else was doing this level of consistency for retailing. We knew there was a market, and it offered us a point of differentiation. We spent a lot of money to develop a brand, Nature's Grown, but we knew we would need a new feed facility. It was around this time that we began to talk with Premier," remembered Randy. "We had already been partnering with Premier to offer liquid feeds to our members. Our services meshed easily. It turned into the right thing to do."

In 2013, the merger between Heartland and Premier was completed. Organic feed sales grew by 50% during the first two years of the merger. "Between the rapid growth of organic feed sales, and the impact of the Food Safety Modernization Act, we started looking into building a new feed mill. Heartland had already bought the land, so we began planning an efficient combination mill that could handle organic, non-GMO, and conventional feed production. We broke ground in May of 2016, and are on track to open the new mill in March. It is the biggest co-op investment so far," noted Andy.

The new mill, with 900,000 bushels of grain storage, and the ability to separately handle and process organic, non-GMO and conventional feeds easily, will greatly

enhance Premier's ability to grow the feed and retail business. They will be able to package more sizes and smaller sizes, opening new retail markets and distribution channels. "Good quality ingredients, modern equipment, and pelleting really helps us. Pelletized feed results in a lot less waste. Consistency is key," said Feed Location Manager Roger Brock.

The "Nature's Grown" retail label has been redesigned and new products are in the works to include multiple poultry options, calves, dairy, and even rabbits. With distribution to 20 states, and more in development, Premier sees big opportunities for growth in the metropolitan markets.

Today, Premier's 360 staff operate 37 facilities in 21 communities, offering feed, agronomy, energy, grain, hardware, lumber, automotive, and convenience store products and services to over 6,000 active members and another 10,000 non-members. 2017 sales exceeded \$185 million. With a new, state of the art, certified organic feed mill, expanding service areas, and a rapidly growing retail brand, the future is very bright for the oldest farmer cooperative in the United States.

For more information about Premier Cooperative visit their website: premiercooperative.com

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unannounced inspection on 5% of our clients annually; we comply and we do not charge the clients selected for this. We are required to perform costly residue tests on 5% of our clients annually; ditto on not charging for this. We are required to "field audit" all new inspectors each year, and returning inspectors once every three years. That means that each year, for approx. 20 inspections, we must send along another qualified inspector to evaluate and rate him/her. MOSA pays for this. These NOP initiatives are sound and sensible, but expensive. These are part of the reasons we re-evaluated our fee schedule. We tried to keep the increase modest and we will not turn around and raise our fees again next year; we hope we can keep them as-is for several years.

We're in the thick of winter now but soon we should start seeing the first hints of Spring in the air. This is the time of year that we start to see the shifts; already there is substantially more daylight than we experienced just a few weeks ago and soon more days will have temperatures above freezing than below. In the meantime, we look at seed catalogs, make plans for the season ahead, and wait on the warmer days.

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. ■

NATURAL RESOURCES AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ON ORGANIC FARMS

Valley Stewardship Network

In 2016, the National Organic Program published its guidance on Natural Resources and Biodiversity Conservation. Adherence to the guidance: "...requires the producer to incorporate practices in his or her organic system plan that are beneficial to biodiversity on his or her operation." This is timely guidance because research has demonstrated declines in biodiversity over recent decades in regions throughout the globe. Reversing these trends by promoting bio-



diversity within our organic operations will be essential for long term biodiversity conservation.

The strongest declines in biodiversity have been observed in insect groups. Pollinators are one of the key groups of concern not only because of the reports of recent declines, but also because they are essential for the production of many of our crops. The honey bee gets a lot of the press about pollinator declines and they also receive most of the credit for pollination services. However, recent research has shown declines in several of our native pollinators, and that much of the credit for crop pollination should actu-



ally go to our native pollinators. The array of native pollinators is incredible. For instance, there are over 400 native bee species in Wisconsin alone; compare that to the solitary honey bee species. There are also countless other insects that visit flowers and could pollinate crops, some of which will also consume crop pests. While we emphasize the importance of pollinators, any efforts to improve biodiversity for one group of organisms can also promote the diversity of other groups, and will ultimately make our agricultural ecosystems more sustainable and resilient.

Our agricultural landscapes have great potential to foster and sustain biodiversity. Indeed, farms have been an important repository of natural biodiversity historically. However, pesticide development, genetic modification, antibiotics, and chemical fertilizers, coupled with farm specialization and consolidation, has greatly simplified our agricultural landscapes. This is important because more complex agricultural landscapes with many different types of operations, crops, livestock, and land covers host greater biodiversity than simplified ones. Maintaining biodiverse agricultural landscapes is going to require efforts from all forms of agriculture, but organic operations have the greatest potential to preserve and enhance biodiversity.

There are many components and options to promote biodiversity on your farm:



Restoration: Within your farm there may be areas of the property that are remnants of natural ecosystems. Some examples might include an old pasture or hay field that still contains some native prairie species, a wet area that has indications of being a

SLUMBERING FIRE: ORGANIC AT A CROSSROADS

Stephen Walker, Operations Manager

In our organic community, recent months have exemplified “interesting times.” We’re coming off a year with a new administration, criticism in the mainstream press, market uncertainties, troublesome imports, unified pleas for stronger livestock standards, continued debate on organic values and boundaries, and enforcement challenges, and through it all, organic continues as an economic engine. Organic innovation continues to move quickly, while deliberation about changes takes its careful pace. We monitor, learn, assess, and adapt, to do better. This is how continuous improvement- an organic tenet - steps forward into a new spring. Tension arises from the frustrating dichotomy of enthusiastic efficiency versus the pace of sound stewardship, but that also is rather in tune with the season.

We’re wrapping up winter here in the northern Midwest, with a touch of pride in our tenacity. The wheel comes around one more time on its annual cycle. In sync with the web of life, these cold months are time to pull within and gather what we need for new growth. Longer nights and blankets of snow give their medicine: time to pause, listen, gather some wisdom, and plan. What new thing do we want to birth this spring? For our organic label and for our thriving organic world vision, it’s high time to ruminate, check our values, and prepare for where we want to get to.

The settling of winter left us organic stakeholders with a whole lot to consider. As October turned to November, I attended the National Organic Standards Board meeting in Jacksonville, Florida. NOSB meetings are all about defining organic vision. Over the years, I’ve been to many of these meetings, held each spring and fall. I’ve heard many hours of passionate and reasoned testimony on widely diverse agenda items, and I usually bring my own words on behalf of MOSA. NOSB discussion exemplifies democracy at its best. But, Jacksonville... Jacksonville was heavy. The weightiest fall agenda item was a proposal to prohibit hydroponic production under the USDA Organic Seal. There also was a further intensification of focus on soil as the foundation for all things organic, and promotion of regenerative organic practices as a solution to climate change. These issues came right to the heart of organic values and vision. (Since we’re now closer to the next meeting, in Tucson AZ in April, I won’t get into all of the Jacksonville votes and issues; those have been reported elsewhere, but feel free to call us regarding details.)

In the end, the hydroponic prohibition measure failed on a vote of 8-7. It kind of figured. The even divide was frustrating, but not surprising. This issue seemed to pit our stalwart organic pioneers - many of whom showed up at the meeting - against some of our most forward-thinking organic entrepreneurs. There were differences of opinion on the NOSB, within MOSA staff, and even in my own immediate family. Respectfully, each side recognized the merits

of the other. For all of the feeling that this vote defined organic at some crossroads, the results of this democratic process seemed inconclusive, flat. I don’t think anyone left the meeting feeling very happy.

Soon after the vote, we began to hear the reactions, and some spin. Some declared they were done with USDA organic. Others claimed victory. But, headlines don’t do justice to the deliberation. [Meeting transcripts](#) help provide a



fuller picture, but they don’t show a twinkle in the eye, nor tears. Some sections are worth a read to gain better perspective on the dissonance. Up there just past page 1400 we read how NOSB members summarized the extreme difficulty of the decision.

For example, there was this expression of reason and passion, from NOSB member [Sue Baird](#), who also serves on MOSA’s Board. Sue spoke through tears. *“I am a product of farmers. I am a farmer more than anything in the world... You can’t please everybody. So I’m here to follow my heart, and my heart says land is disappearing. My people, that settled in north-west Arkansas in 1852, can no longer buy farms... They want to farm. They were raised for generations to be farmers. They can’t find land. They want to raise food for their neighbors. Last year we had a horrible incident in Missouri... Do you all remember Ferguson? Made national news. Urban young people are so disenfranchised. They don’t have fresh food available. You can say, ‘Oh, well, you know, you can go to the grocery store,’ but many people don’t have opportunities to go to the grocery store, and they need fresh food. And there is no land; it’s concrete... We can establish community gardens, and we do that. But we have young people who have lost their hope. They can’t afford tractors. They can’t afford cultivators... And they need opportunity to farm food. So, reading this, and seeing that the intent was that someday we would allow hydroponics and aquaponics, and all the new stuff that happens to be labeled as organic, I am not inclined to limit organic labeling to just soil. And I’m sorry to the pioneers who have done such wonderful, wonderful work, in the soil. I’ll always be there with you. I’ll always put my feet in the dirt first thing in*

CERTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE

by Jackie DeMinter, Certification Policy Manager

Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices Rule Update - The new Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) final rule, which represents over a decade of work by the organic community, was published by the National Organic Program in January of 2017. After three implementation delays, the USDA recently proposed to withdraw the rule entirely. The USDA summed up their basis for the proposed withdrawal as a lack of legal authority and with such negative financial impact that the rule cannot be justified. A public comment period was open through January 17, 2018 and MOSA voiced our strong opposition to the proposed withdrawal along with thousands of others in the industry. More about the proposed rule and comments can be read here: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=AMS-NOP-15-0012-6686>. We are now waiting to hear the final verdict on the withdrawal, but the community has already begun to come together to discuss options if the OLPP is withdrawn. MOSA is beginning to consider an additional verification program for animal welfare. Would this be something you would like MOSA to offer? Let us know. Email mosa@mosaorganic.org.

Baler Twine and Residue Tests - Have you ever wondered about your baler twine? Probably not. We really haven't either, but recently residue tests we've conducted have tested positive for a chemical - O-phenylphenol - which is a fungicide commonly found on baler twine. Residue tests are sensitive and will readily detect residues of prohibited materials in very small quantities. Since this chemical does not have a tolerance for use in crop production, its mere presence on organic crops is prohibited and will disqualify a crop from organic status.

Why has this not come up before now? Baler twine has not been on our radar as a concern. We've always looked at it as more of a tool, not an input needing review. We see natural sisal twine and plastic twine primarily, and most of the time we observe it being disposed of in the trash along with the rest of the bale wrap. Since residue testing is relatively new, we're also just now beginning to collect samples triggering positive results for this chemical. So far, we have found the chemical is most prevalent when twine has been incorporated into the crop, such as chopped along with the corn into the silo. Though we haven't readily followed up on the disposal, it has been a longstanding policy at MOSA that twine should be disposed of properly. Nothing should be included in feed that is not allowed for use in feed. (Twine should not be disposed of on crop land either.) We do ask about disposal of synthetic materials used for crop and feed storage on your Livestock OSP and, during the upcoming season, we will be following up on twine disposal along with any other synthetic materials in use.

What does this mean for you? If you chop or incorporate twine into your feed, you should stop. Twine is not an acceptable feed additive. MOSA will continue to allow twine for use as a tool when disposed of properly.

Industrial Hemp - Inquiries about certification of hemp and hemp products have been on the rise. Does MOSA certify industrial hemp? Yes, MOSA follows NOP instruction 2040: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/NOP%202040%20Hemp%20Instruction.pdf>. While certifiers cannot broadly certify all hemp products, the NOP has opened the door to the certification of industrial hemp when produced in compliance with the Statement of Principles on Industrial Hemp: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/08/12/2016-19146/statement-of-principles-on-industrial-hemp>

The principles include the basic understanding of how to implement federal law on the state level. Production is strictly regulated and each of the following applies.

- Limited to authorized institutions of higher education and state departments of agriculture and persons licensed, registered, or otherwise authorized by them for research production in states where the production of industrial hemp is legal.
- Proper licensing must be in place.
- Industrial hemp includes Cannabis sativa L. and any and all parts of the plant. Industrial hemp must be used for industrial purposes (fiber and seed). THC concentration must be lower than .3% on a dry weight basis.
- Industrial hemp products may be sold in states where sales are legal, but only for marketing research. Sales for "general commercial activity" are not legal. Sales between states where sales are legal are permitted, however seeds and plants may not be transported across state lines.
- Since industrial hemp is still a Controlled Substance, the importation of viable seeds must be approved by the DEA. Any phytosanitary requirements required for importing any plant material would also apply to the importation of industrial hemp seed.
- All research must follow the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act requirements.
- The Controlled Substance Act still applies and all production must continue to adhere to the CSA requirements.
- Authorized institutions may be able to participate in USDA research or other programs if eligible.

We are refining policies and answering open questions as they arise. In Wisconsin, where the production of hemp was just legalized under 2017 Wisconsin Act 100, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is in process of developing the emergency administrative rule which will spell out the details of the program, including requirements for growers. The emergency rule will be complete by March 2, 2018 and will remain in effect until July 2020, or when a permanent administrative rule is finalized. DATCP will be holding public hearings and will have other opportunities for public comment on the permanent rule. Information will be updated on the DATCP website: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/IndustrialHemp.aspx as it becomes available.

National List Proposed Changes - The National Organic Program has [proposed a rule](#) that would amend the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances to implement recommendations submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture by the National Organic Standards Board. This rule proposes to **change the use restrictions for seventeen substances** allowed for organic production or handling: micronutrients, chlorhexidine, parasiticides, fenbendazole, moxidectin, xylazine, lidocaine, procaine, methionine, excipients, alginic acid, flavors, carnauba wax, chlorine, cellulose, colors, and glycerin.

This rule also proposes to **add sixteen new substances** to the National List. Hypochlorous acid would be added to all categories. Magnesium oxide and squid by-products would be added for crop use. Activated charcoal; calcium borogluconate; calcium propionate; injectable vitamins, minerals, and electrolytes; kaolin pectin; mineral oil; propylene glycol; acidified sodium chlorite; and zinc sulfate would be added for livestock use. Potassium lactate and sodium lactate would be added for processing use. In addition, this proposed rule would list the botanical pesticide, rotenone, as a **prohibited** substance in organic crop production and would **remove** ivermectin as an allowed parasiticide for use in organic livestock production.

Read more about the rule: National Organic Program: National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (Crops, Livestock and Handling): <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/01/17/2017-28172/national-organic-program-amendments-to-the-national-list-of-allowed-and-prohibited-substances-crops>

We encourage you to [submit comments](#) on materials relevant to your operation. Your comments must include the Docket Number AMS-NOP-14-0079; NOP-14-05, and/or Regulatory Information Number (RIN) 0581-AD60 and be submitted on or before midnight EST, March 19, 2018. [Submit comments here: https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=AMS-NOP-14-0079-0001](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=AMS-NOP-14-0079-0001) or mail to Robert Pooler, Standards Division, National Organic Program, USDA-AMS-NOP, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Room 2642-S., Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250-0268.

Refer to the table below for a short summary of changes. Links on each suggested change will take you to the decision for the material in the [federal register notice](#)

ALL CATEGORIES	
Hypochlorous acid - generated from electrolyzed water	Proposed addition as a chlorine material for use as a disinfectant and sanitizer in 205.601(a)(2), 205.603(a), and 205.605(b).
CROPS	
Magnesium Oxide - for use only to control the viscosity of a clay suspension agent for humates	Proposed addition to 205.601(j), plant and soil amendments.
Micronutrients - not to be used as a defoliant, herbicide, or desiccant. Those made from nitrates or chlorides are not allowed. Micronutrient deficiency must be documented by soil or tissue testing, advice from certified crop advisors or professional agronomists, agricultural extension information, or other methods approved by the certifying agent.	Additional ways deficiencies can be documented are proposed to be added to 205.601(j).
Squid ByProducts - from food waste processing only. Can be pH adjusted with sulfuric, citric or phosphoric acid. The amount of acid used shall not exceed the minimum needed to lower the pH to 3.5	Proposed addition to 205.601(j), plant and soil amendments.
Rotenone	Proposed addition to 205.602 as a prohibited natural substance in organic crop production.
LIVESTOCK	
Activated Charcoal - must be from vegetative sources	Proposed addition to 205.603(a) as a livestock medical treatment.
Calcium Borogluconate and Calcium Propionate - for the treatment of milk fever only	Proposed addition to 205.603(a) as a livestock medical treatment.
Chlorhexidine - for medical procedures conducted under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Allowed for use as a teat dip when alternative germicidal agents and/or physical barriers have lost their effectiveness.	Proposed revision to 205.603(a)(6) which would remove the requirement for use by a veterinarian for surgical procedures only, however the teat dip restriction would remain the same.
Kaolin Pectin - for use as an absorbent, antidiarrheal, and gut protectant	Proposed addition to 205.603(a) as a livestock medical treatment.

Mineral Oil - for treatment of intestinal impaction, prohibited for use as a dust suppressant	Proposed addition to 205.603(a) as a livestock medical treatment. This addition does not change the current listing at 205.603 (b)(6) <i>Mineral oil—for topical use and as a lubricant</i> .
Nutritive Supplements - injectable supplements of trace minerals per 205.603(d)(2), vitamins per 205.603(d)(3), and electrolytes per 205.603(a)(8 11), with excipients per 205.603(f), in accordance with FDA and restricted to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian	Proposed addition to 205.603(a).
Livestock Health Practice Standard §205.238(b) When preventive practices and veterinary biologics are inadequate to prevent sickness, a producer may administer synthetic medications: Provided, That, such medications are allowed under §205.603. Parasiticides allowed under §205.603 may be used on: (1) Breeder stock, when used prior to the last third of gestation but not during lactation for progeny that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced; and (2) Dairy stock animals , as allowed under §205.603. a minimum of 90 days prior to the production of milk or milk products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic . (3) Fiber bearing animals, as allowed under §205.603 .	Proposed to be amended by replacing the 90-day withholding time for milk and milk products with a cross-reference to withholding times specified in §205.603. In addition, the term “stock” will be replaced with “animal.” And (3) is proposed to be added.
Parasiticides (205.605(a)(17), Fenbendazole, Moxidectin and Ivermectin 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 provided for in subpart D of this part 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. Allowed for fiber bearing animals when used a minimum of 90 days prior to harvest of fleece or wool that is to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic . (i) Fenbendazole (CAS #43210-67-9) Milk or milk products from a treated animal cannot be labeled as provided for in subpart D of this part for: 2 days following treatment of cattle; 36 days following treatment of goats, sheep, and other dairy species.—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. Milk or milk products from a treated animal cannot be labeled as provided for in subpart D of this part for: 2 days following treatment of cattle; 36 days following treatment of goats, sheep, and other dairy species .	Proposed for revision to remove the 90-day withholding time for milk and milk products following treatment with allowed parasiticides. Proposed for revision to allow use in fiber bearing animals with a 90-day withdrawal time from treatment to harvest of wool or fleece. Fenbendazole is proposed for revision to remove the requirement for use by or on the lawful written order of a licensed veterinarian, and include modified withholding times for milk and milk products. Moxidectin is proposed for revision to include modified withholding times for milk and milk products. Ivermectin is proposed for removal from the rule.
Propylene Glycol - only for treatment of ketosis in ruminants only	Proposed addition to 205.603(a)
Sodium Chlorite, Acidified -Allowed for use on organic livestock as a pre and post teat dip treatment only	Proposed addition to 205.603(a) disinfectants, sanitizer, and medical treatments as applicable and to 205.603(b) topical treatment, external parasiticide or local anesthetic as applicable.
Xylazine -205.603(22) federal law restricts this drug to use by or on the lawful written or oral order of a licensed veterinarian, in full compliance with the AMDUCA and 21 CFR part 530 of the Food and Drug Administration regulations. Also, for use under 7 CFR part 205, the NOP requires: (i) Use by or on the lawful written order of a licensed veterinarian; (ii) The existence of an emergency; and (iii) A meat withdrawal period of at least 8 days after administering to livestock intended for slaughter; and a milk discard period of at least 4 days after administering to dairy animals.	The proposed revision will remove the requirement for use only in the existence of an emergency, allowing for non emergency uses as well. Other requirements remain.

Zinc Sulfate - for use in hoof and foot treatments only	Proposed addition to 205.603(a).
Lidocaine and Procaine	Proposed for revision to 205.603(b) to reduce the slaughter stock withhold time from 90 to 8 days and the milk withhold timeframe from 7 to 6 days.
Methionine - (1) DL-Methionine, DL-Methionine—hydroxy analog, and DL-Methionine—hydroxy analog calcium (CAS #'s 59-51-8, 583-91-5, 4857-44-7, and 922-50-9)—for use only in organic poultry production at the following pounds of synthetic 100 percent methionine per ton of feed in the diet, averaged over the life of the flock: laying chickens—2 pounds; broiler chickens—2.5 pounds; turkeys and all other poultry—3 pounds.	Proposed revisions to 205.603(d)(1) will allow for averaging over the lifespan of the birds rather than as a constant percentage of the feed.
Excipients - (4) Approved by APHIS for use in veterinary biologics	Proposed addition to 205.603(f)
PROCESSING and HANDLING	
Acids - Alginic Acid	Proposed to be reclassified from 205.605(a) nonsynthetics to 205.605(b) synthetics.
Flavors , non-synthetic flavors may be used when organic flavors are not commercially available. All flavors must be derived from organic or nonsynthetic sources only, and must not be produced using synthetic solvents and carrier systems or any artificial preservative.	206.605(a) revisions proposed would add a commercial availability clause and clarify that organic sources are allowed.
Carnauba Wax	Proposed to be reclassified from 205.605(a) nonsynthetic to 205.606 nonorganic agriculturals which would require commercial unavailability documentation if organic is unavailable.
Cellulose — for use in regenerative casings, powdered cellulose as an anti-caking agent (non-chlorine bleached) and filtering aid. Microcrystalline cellulose is prohibited.	The proposed revisions specify what types of cellulose can be used.
Chlorine - Chlorine materials—disinfecting and sanitizing food contact surfaces, equipment and facilities may be used up to maximum labeled rates. Chlorine materials in water used in direct crop or food contact are permitted at levels approved by the FDA or EPA for such purpose, provided the use is followed by a rinse with potable water at or below the maximum residual disinfectant limit for the chlorine material under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Chlorine in water used as an ingredient in organic food handling must not exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limit for the chlorine material under the Safe Drinking Water Act. (1) Calcium hypochlorite. (2) Chlorine dioxide. (3) Hypochlorous acid—generated from electrolyzed water. (4) Sodium hypochlorite.	Revisions update the listing to meet current chlorine use policies.
Potassium Lactate and Sodium Lactate - for use as an antimicrobial agent and pH regulator only	Proposed additions to .605(b).
Glycerin —produced from agricultural source materials and processed using biological or mechanical/physical methods as described under § 205.270(a).	Proposed to be reclassified from 205.605(b)synthetics to 205.606 nonorganic agriculturals which would require commercial unavailability documentation if organic is unavailable, and revised to clarify production methods allowed.
Colors (see Table 30 for a complete list of changes proposed)	The revisions proposed would replace the CAS numbers included in annotations with the binomial names of the agricultural source of the color.

the spring. But I have to say no.”

And ther was this comment from [Jesse Buie](#), regarding USDA’s responses as many hydroponic systems became certified in absence of adequate standards. *“I believe that soil is the foundation of organic, and this subcommittee has really worked tirelessly to come up with a compromise. Good or bad, I have seen much work done in trying to get some consensus. And as everybody has mentioned, we don’t have it yet. But fellow board members... The elephant in this room is the fact that we are trying to solve a problem that kind of was created above us -- above the chain of command... The ultimate solution is for the NOP to enforce the regulations. It’s just that simple.”*

Producer representative [Steve Ela](#) raised questions about humility. *“We’re farming very complex systems, and we don’t know what is happening in our soils, yet we do know there is cycling... we know there is carbon sequestration and release. We know there are multiple layers, including high-end predators and low-end plants. We know it’s a system that can create its own nutrition through nitrogen fixation and legumes, and one that includes multiple plant species... I don’t believe that we can engineer or design a replica of this... complex system that we have yet to understand... I don’t believe that the science exists to make a complete choice. With any new material added, we want to dive ahead and figure that it’s okay, but so often we find that that new material isn’t okay. And for me, I have great respect for the hydroponic, aquaponics growers. They are very, very intriguing systems, and I believe in the integrity of those people and their best intentions. (But,) at this point, until we have a better understanding... I’m going to stay with the soil.”*

Conservationist [Asa Bradman](#) was extremely torn as to how to vote, but in the end, seeking better compromise, he voted against the hydroponic prohibition. *“I understand that this container production (a separate proposal, still under discussion) is seen as a compromise, but I don’t think it reflects the full breadth of the existing community... I feel like there is a potential opportunity for compromise. I see that in the labeling front. And, you know, last spring I said very clearly that I wanted to vote for something, not against something. And what I would like to vote for is a deeper compromise that allows for some labeling, allows for transparency, and also can set standards. I think there are a lot of great points about the kind of ick factor when we see highly mechanized, controlled environment agriculture. And I think there is an opportunity to develop standards that address that... But, the reality is I think there is an intent in those systems to really adhere to the principles of (The Organic Foods Production Act) and the principles of an environmentally productive agriculture, and I think that has to be validated.”*

With a recent announcement from NOP clarifying that hydroponic production can fit within our organic regulations, it now seems incumbent upon us regulators to better define expectations for ‘ponic systems. To that end, we are in discussion with other certifiers about best practices. Organic hydroponic systems must go beyond

input substitution, and must follow organic principles, like consideration of ecological footprints. Policy agreement is needed now, or yesterday, but sound policies take time to develop. This exemplifies that frustrating dichotomy of pace, and shows a need to pull in, to wisely move forward.

The divided NOSB vote raised uncertainty about the prospect of some fragmentation of our organic community. And, more-recently, the very-disappointing proposed withdrawal of the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule, which was over a decade in the making, has given new urgency to considering action outside of the NOP structure. As we head into spring, we’re commenting on developing standards or otherwise considering a number of possible additional verifications, including: grassfed organic dairy, regenerative organic certification, animal welfare, food safety/GAP verification, and transitional verification.

So, these winter months were a gift, here in the midst of the crossroads, an opportunity to embrace the uncertainty while pulling back a ways from the surrounding drama. When pondering uncertainty, best values and vision shine through and give direction for action. At the heart of the soil/hydroponic debate I saw some important common vision, which motivated both camps. All seek continuous improvement. The soil movement and ‘ponics at their best each progressively work toward carbon-neutral solutions for an imminent, much-altered future. Going forward, it seems wise to build on common ground, to take action on values held in common by all we serve.

MOSA’s primary role is regulatory, but that doesn’t just mean setting policies and issuing noncompliance notices. To achieve our vision, enforcement-based “pushing” needs a balance of educational “pulling” toward better practices. In considering how organic must progress with balance, I’ve found [IFOAM’s Organic 3.0 concept paper](#) to be a very interesting read. It’s forward thinking, considering challenges of climate change, organic accessibility for vulnerable communities, innovation, use of technology, and efficiency in verification. The paper also speaks to challenges with our current “2.0” regulatory system. Looking ahead from these crossroads, we might envision a different kind of organic verification system. We’re engaged in that conversation, to learn, assess, adapt, improve.

From a similar perspective, we recently provided detailed feedback on Rodale’s Regenerative Organic Certification. This new standard builds on our current NOP Organic regulations and adds requirements for carbon sequestration, animal welfare, and fair labor practices. This certification scheme has gained a lot of attention from organic stakeholders concerned with our global future and frustrated by NOP’s pace. Like many others offering comments, we found this certification to be admirable, but leaving logistical gaps and questions. It continues

sedge meadow, or a steep slope with large sprawling oaks that was once an oak savanna. Efforts to remove or reduce the presence of weedy or brushy species,



will allow the native vegetation to flourish to help bring these habitats back to their former glory. These types of remnant ecosystems have the potential to be the most biologically diverse areas of your farm.

Enhancement: There may be areas of the farm that are already reserved for natural habitat such as CRP fields or pastures that are largely grass dominated. Areas with existing perennial vegetation can be enhanced



with seed or plants that provide resources for wildlife. Establishing plants within existing sod often requires some special preparation before seeding or planting. Consult with a resource professional for a list of species to plant and methods for establishment.

Meadow Plantings: Planting a diverse mix of grasses and flowers will provide resources for pollinators, predators/parasitoids of crop pests, and habitat for grassland birds. Native tallgrass prairie plants are highly recommended for meadow plantings because they are the flower species that many of our native pollinators are adapted to. However, using less costly alternatives such as red clover or alfalfa can help also

benefit pollinators. The most important consideration when selecting flower species to plant, is to ensure that there is always something in bloom at any given time throughout the growing season. Meadow/prairie plantings can still be utilized for haying or grazing, just not as frequently as a field or pasture managed specifically for forage production. In meadow/prairie plantings, haying should be delayed until after July 1st to allow time for nesting birds to fledge their young.

Buffer/Filter Strips: When placed at the downslope



edge of fields, buffer strips can help control erosion, slow down water flow, and filter out nutrients and sediments to prevent them from entering our



waterways. Any perennial plants can be used in a buffer strip, including certain tree species. Using a diverse planting of native tallgrass prairie may provide advantages over other plant options. Native tallgrass prairie will have more resources for pollinators and better habitat for grassland birds. Also, prairie plants have thick stems that slow down water and hold up better in large rain events,

CLASSIFIEDS

LIVESTOCK

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35 head organic (MOSA) & grass fed (AGA) certified steers. Born May 15 - July 15, 2017. Will be fully weaned & available April 1, 2018. Sikeston, MO. Call 417-270-0662.

Organic Dairy seeking someone looking to start their own dairy. We have nice cows and facility. We will sell the cows and facility is available to rent. Wonewoc, WI. Call Ben c:419-294-8598, h:608-489-8598.

CRESCENT MEATS - USDA INSPECTED - CERTIFIED ORGANIC

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PREMIER LIVESTOCK & AUCTIONS- NOW CERTIFIED ORGANIC!

Premier Livestock & Auctions is now the only certified organic livestock auction barn in the Midwest. Sell your certified organic cattle and feed. N13538 State Highway 73, Withee, WI 54498. 715-229-2500.

HOLSTEIN DAIRY HERD

Small herd of certified organic Holstein cows for sale (25 animals). Call for pricing. Coon Valley, WI. 608-452-3397 or 608-632-2503.

CERTIFIED ORGANIC GRASSFED ANGUS

Nine Black Angus/Corriente cross cattle. Five cows with nursing calves and four un-bred heifers. All are 100% grassfed and certified with MOSA. Located in the Rochester, MN area. Call 507-696-0270 for pricing.

RED DEVON BULLS, COWS & HEIFERS

We are selling Red Devon Bulls, Red Devon and Red Angus bred cows and bred heifers. We also have freezer beef & grass-fed steers available- all 100% grass-fed. Witzig Organic Farms. Gridley, IL. 309-747-2423.

BELTED GALLOWAYS

Michael and Lorna Caldwell of Caldwell Farms, Milladore, Wisconsin, are selling a portion of our certified organic grass-fed Registered Belted Galloway herd with unique genetics comprised of 150 belties (including 50 pregnant cows and heifers). All belties DNA tested for parentage and tenderness ratings. Visit our website www.beltiebeef.com. Please call Lorna at farm: 715-457-6765, cell: 715-207-9745 or email us at belties@caldwellfarms.com.

CUSTOM HEIFER RAISING

Will custom raise your organic heifers. Feed provided. Call for more details. Located near Lewiston, MN. Call Matt at: 507-459-7719.

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CERTIFIABLE FARM FOR RENT

Previously certified. All managed organically and certifiable. 120 tillable acres. 40 acres for fenced pasture. Spring-fed water available. Accommodations possible. Steuben, WI. Call, 608-476-2331.

CERTIFIED ORGANIC FARM

Certified Organic farm, located in Brainerd, MN. Lots of buildings, modern house, modern heated shop. \$40/acre land rent. Call Floyd at 218-764-3122.

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Organic Dairy seeking someone looking to start their own dairy. We have nice cows and facility. We will sell the cows and facility is available to rent. Wonewoc, WI. Call Ben c:419-294-8598, h:608-489-8598.

EQUIPMENT

IMANTS 72 INCH TILLER

Imants 72 inch tiller that works the ground and leaves little disturbance on the surface soils. This ruggedly built machine requires about 10 HP per foot and the travel speed is less than one mile per hour. It does a great job of preparing the ground to create raised beds for vegetables. \$7875.00. Call 605-310-9642 or email lmiller1@sio.midco.net

GREEN BEAN HARVESTER

Green Bean Harvester for sale. Pull type, 2 row picker, older Pixall unit, new brushes 2017, working condition. \$10,500. Comes with separate cleaner and sort conveyor. Mason, WI. (715)765-4297 or greatoakfarm@gmail.com for pictures/more info.

HORSE DRIVEN IMPLEMENTS

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

GARLIC TINCTURE

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

ORGANIC MOLASSES

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.

EMPLOYMENT

GARLIC TINCTURE HARMONY VALLEY FARM JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Harmony Valley Farm (SW WI) is now hiring for the 2018 season. Open positions include: Office Support, and Packing Shed Support. Each of these positions requires excellent communication skills and the ability to work as a team member. Visit www.harmonyvalleyfarm.com/opportunities for more detailed job descriptions and send resume with cover letter to Kelly at bookkeeper@harmonyvalleyfarm.com.

DAIRY FARM EMPLOYEE

Employee Wanted: Certified Organic Dairy Farm. Milking and Chores. Opportunity for future ownership. Arcadia, WI 54612. Call 608-863-3703.

FORAGES/GRAINS

ORGANIC GRASS HAY

Organic Grass Hay. Approx. 300 small square bales from 2016. \$2.50/bale. Also, loose grass hay. \$1.00/large bag, or can take existing amount bulk for \$25.00. Located south of Brooklyn, WI. Contact Dennis. 608-416-0364, or dennis@inpaksystems.com.

OAT STRAW

Organic oat straw squares-3x3x8 and I have some oat straw with the oats in it in 4x5 rounds. Call Milton @ 608-921-3765 for more info.

ORGANIC CORN

Certified Organic corn. Brodhead, WI. Call Ervin 608-426-1726 or Milton 608-921-3765.

ORGANIC BALEAGE

Grass/clover organic baleage. 1st, 2nd and 3rd cuttings. Tested. Prices are moisture discounted. Delivery is available. Merrell/Wausau, WI area. 920-284-2177.

ORGANIC SHELL CORN

Organic shelled corn. Prescott, WI. 715-821-0793.

ALFALFA HAY AND BALEAGE

4x5 round bales of alfalfa hay and baleage. High quality. No rain. 1st, 2nd and 3rd crops. Prescott, WI. 715-821-0793.

SMALL SQUARE DRY HAY

Small squares of alfalfa and alfalfa/grass mix dry hay. 1st through 4th crop. No rain/stored inside. NE WI. 920-366-9708.

DRY HAY

Dry hay. Alfalfa grass and straight grass. 3x3x8 large squares. No rain. NE WI. 920-366-9708.

ORGANIC RYE STRAW/GRASS

Organic rye straw/grass bales. 3x3x8 large squares and 4x5 rounds. Net wrapped. No rain. NE WI. 920-366-9708.

ALFALFA/GRASS BALEAGE

Alfalfa/grass bales. RFQ 150-223. 2nd through 4th crop. Available individually wrapped or line wrapped. 3x3x6 large squares. No rain. NE WI. 920-366-9708.

CERTIFIED ORGANIC OATS

For sale: Certified Organic Oats. 1000 bu. Brodhead, WI. Call Ervin at 608-426-1726 or Milton at 608-921-3765.

CERTIFIED ORGANIC ALFALFA HAY BALES

These are all Certified Organic Alfalfa with some grass twine wrapped 4x5 round bales. We have about 50 2nd cutting Round Bales that have been under shelter since baled. We also have about 100 1st and 3rd cutting bales that are outside. Nutrient tested and available upon request. Asking \$35 for 1st and 3rd cutting. Asking \$40 for 2nd cutting bales. Call tel: (651) 343-2595.

50x42 inch 500lb sisal twine. No rain stored inside. Can load two high. \$20 each. About 66 bales available. Merrill, WI. 7152971426 Andy.

COMMERCIAL

ELECTRIC WEEDER FOR RENT:

Kill weeds, and do it without chemicals – electrocute them. Rent an electric weeder from Quality Organic Producers Cooperative. You drive your tractor through the field with the weeder hitched behind. The weeder generates electricity and puts 15,000 volts into a boom suspended above your crop. When a weed that is taller than your crop hits the boom, electricity passes through the weed and into the ground. On the way it kills the weed, root and all. The weed is crumpled on the ground when you make the next pass. Call 563 532 9431 for more information.

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.

COST SHARE UPDATE

Attention Wisconsin Operators - FSA 2017 Cost Share Program continues to accept applications

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WIDATCP) is no longer accepting 2017 cost share applications. The State's cost share funds are used up. However, the good news is if you haven't yet applied, you may still apply through your county FSA office. Reimbursement is for certification fee payments made between 10/1/17 - 9/30/2017. The FSA is now also accepting applications for the 2018 cost share year - payments made between 10/1/2017 - 9/30/2018.

-and-

The FSA is now accepting 2018 cost share applications. The 2018 Cost Share offers a rebate on payments made between 10/1/2017 - 9/30/2018.

For more info., contact your county FSA office. And feel contact Lexy McManaway here at MOSA 608-637-2526, lexymcmanaway@mosaorganic.org.

cont. Slumbering Fire from pg. 7

cost and practical limitations of our current regulatory/verification structure. So, as we continue conversation about regenerative agriculture and organic's future, we're focusing on educational "pulling" toward better practices, encouraging voluntarily going beyond regulatory requirements. To this end, we recently joined as a partnership organization with [Regeneration International](#), to help encourage best regenerative practices. And, in conjunction with Regeneration International, [RegeNErate Nebraska](#), the [Organic Consumers Association](#), and the [Main Street Project](#), we're cosponsoring a "Regenerate the Midwest" meeting at the upcoming [MOSES Organic Farming Conference](#), in La Crosse, WI. That'll be at 7 PM on Friday, February 23rd. We'll discuss how communities can come together to build strong local and regional food systems, and we'll brainstorm how to transition from degenerative in-

dustrial agribusiness to a regenerative agriculture model empowering independent farmers and promoting public health, a clean environment, social and economic justice—and fighting climate change.

Winter's pause helps to bring forth deep organic values, which emerge in spring. In an 1843 meditation titled "A Winter Walk," Henry David Thoreau wrote about winter's seasonal gift, time to re-attune to our perennial values as we prepare for new growth. Summer's glory is sparked from the fire within, passion which directs our course.

"There is a slumbering subterranean fire in nature which never goes out, and which no cold can chill.... What fire could ever equal the sunshine of a winter's day, when the meadow mice come out by the wallsides, and the chickadee lisps in the defiles of the wood? The warmth comes directly from the sun, and is not radiated from the earth, as in summer; and when we feel his beams on our backs as we are treading some snowy dell, we are grateful as for a special kindness, and bless the sun which has followed us into that by-place. This subterranean fire has its altar in each man's breast, for in the coldest day, and on the bleakest hill, the traveller cherishes a warmer fire within the folds of his cloak than is kindled on any hearth. A healthy man, indeed, is the complement of the seasons, and in winter, summer is in his heart."

As we move forward, we hold organic as a solution to urgent global challenges, and envision a thriving organic world, with balance - socioeconomic justice, ecological sustainability, interdependent well-being of individuals, communities and ecosystems. This slumbering fire drives us forward, does not burn out, and warms our hearts even when shifting winds bring uncertainty. We invite you to join in the conversation, and action toward vision. Bring some kindling. ■

MOSA CERTIFIED ORGANIC MEAT PROCESSORS

A common question at the MOSA office is “where can I find a certified organic meat processor?”. Fortunately, MOSA currently certifies ten meat processors with a variety of specialties.

TTJ Packing Company

2532 Peiper Rd
Cottage Grove, WI 53527
(608) 839-8865
USDA Inspected
Custom slaughter, processing, packaging and labeling of meat products - “Organic”: Beef (assorted cuts, ground), Sheep (assorted cuts, ground).

Pine Manor, Inc.

9622 West 350
Orland, IN 46776
1-800-532-4186
<http://www.pinemanorfarms.com/>
USDA Inspected
Slaughter, processing, packaging and private labeling of poultry products - “Organic”: whole chickens, assorted cuts, ground poultry.

The Meat Market

700 Lincoln Ave
Baraboo, WI 53913
608-356-5574
<https://www.meatmarketbaraboo.com/>

Wisconsin DATCP inspected

Cure and Smoke, Inspected Processing - Meat, Inspected Processing - Poultry, Inspected Slaughtering - Meat, Prepare Fresh Sausage, Prepare Heated Sausage, Render Lard, Retail Processing, Slaughtering, processing, packaging, and labeling of - “Organic”: beef (ground and primals), lamb (ground and primals), pork (ground and primals).

Geiss Meat Service

W4490 Pope Rd
Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-5283
<http://www.sausage lover.com/>
Wisconsin DATCP inspected Slaughter, packaging, and labeling of meat - “100% organic”: Beef (Fresh assorted cuts, ground), Pork (Fresh assorted cuts, ground) Processing, packaging, and labeling of meat - “Organic”: Uncured Organic Bacon, Uncured Organic Ham, Uncured Organic Pepper Bacon, Uncured Organic Hungarian Style Bacon, Uncured Organic Summer Sausage, Uncured Organic Beef Sticks, Uncured Organic Beef and pork Wieners, Uncured Organic Beef Garlic Summer Sausage, Uncured Organic Hot Beef Stick, Uncured Organic Beef Wieners, Slaughter, packaging, and private labeling of meat - “100% organic”: Beef (Fresh assorted cuts, ground), Pork (Fresh assorted cuts, ground).

Quality Cut Meats

123 Milwaukee Ave
Cascade, WI 53011
920-528-8424
<http://qualitycutmeats.com/>
Wisconsin DATCP Inspected
Slaughtering, Processing and Packaging of poultry - “Organic”: Whole bird, halves, quarters, 8 cut, boneless breast, leg and thigh quarters, wings, bone in breasts.

Crescent Meats

15332 State Highway 27
Cadott, WI 54727
715-289-3000
<http://www.crescentqualitymeats.com/>
USDA inspected. WI state retail license. Handling, slaughter, processing, packaging, and labeling of - “Organic”: Beef (ground, raw primals), Pork (ground, raw primals), Poultry (raw primals, ground); Andouille Sausage, Bacon, Bratwurst, Breakfast sausage, Chicken Bratwurst, Chicken hot dogs, CM fresh bratwurst, Garlic summer sausage, Jerky, Kielbasa, Ham, Italian Sausage, Maple breakfast sausage, Pepperoni style sausage, Polish Sausage, Salami, Skinless hot dogs, Snack stick, Spicy Snack Stick, Summer Sausage, Teriyaki snack stick.

Ledebuhr Meat Processing, Inc.

5645 W 6th Street
Winona, MN 55987
(507) 452-7440
USDA inspected, MN Dept of Agriculture Wholesale Food Processor. Custom slaughtering, hanging, cutting, processing, packaging, labeling and freezing of beef, lamb and pork - “100% Organic”: Assorted fresh cuts and grinds of beef, lamb and pork; “Organic”: Uncured Hickory Smoked Bacon, Uncured Beef Stix, Uncured Franks, Uncured Garlic Summer Sausage.

Twin Cities Pack, Inc.

5607 East County Highway J
Clinton, WI 53525
<http://www.twincitiespack.com/>
608-676-4428
Wisconsin DATCP, USDA inspected.
Slaughter, cut up and packaging of poultry - “Organic”: Chicken (whole, assorted cuts); Turkey (whole, assorted cuts); Guinea (whole); Pheasant (whole).

Magros Processing, Inc.

3150 Stanton Ave.
Springfield, IL 62703
<http://www.magrosprocessing.com/>
217-679-3161
Illinois State inspected.
Slaughtering, processing, packaging, and labeling of ground and primal cuts - “Organic”: cattle, hogs, sheep, goats, buffalo and elk.

Premium Iowa Pork, LLC

108 First Avenue South
Hospers, IA 51238
<http://www.premiumiowapork.com/>
855-752-8687
USDA/FSIS inspected.
Custom slaughter and processing of pork - “Organic”: Pork carcasses, sub-primals, trimmings, by-products.

and their prolific root systems provide greater water infiltration. Researchers at Iowa State University have found that native tallgrass prairie strips reduce sediment and nutrient runoff by over 84% (www.prairiestrips.org).

Diverse Cropping Systems: Diversifying crop rotations, intercropping, and cover crops can all have positive benefits on biodiversity as well as improving soil health and water quality. Rotating crops helps reduce the presence of crop pests, and improves soil health and biodiversity. Intercropping involves growing two or more crops in close proximity, such as alternating rows. Cover crops will certainly improve soil biodiversity and when allowed to flower can provide important resources for pollinators and predators/parasitoids of crop pests. Having different types of crops, fields and/or types of livestock creates niches that provide habitat and resources for different organisms. A diverse operation will have more biodiversity than a more specialized/simplified operation.

Low-maintenance for Habitat: Farmers take great pride in their operations and work hard to maintain the aesthetics of the farm. General maintenance might include felling dead trees, removing brush, or planting sod to areas with poor vegetation cover. Indeed, these types of practices are necessary at times, especially if they pose a safety or environmental quality concern. But when appropriate; brushy areas, dead trees, patches of bare earth, and the presences of some



weeds can provide important habitat and resources for beneficial wildlife. For instance, some pollinators nest in dead trees while some nest in bare soil, and others nest in hollow stems of some brush species. Also, many “weeds” can serve as excellent food sources for pollinators, predators/parasitoids of crop pests, and birds as long as they are not the types of weeds that invade and harm our agricultural or natural environments.

Mimic Natural Processes: In many natural ecosystems, maintenance of biodiversity relies on periodic disturbance to sustain a healthy and diverse mix of species. Prehistorically, in grasslands of the upper Midwest, natural disturbances like fire and grazing were critical for maintaining biodiversity. Today, we can mimic the movement of grazing herds that once roamed the prairie by implementing rotational grazing. Grazing different portions of a pasture at different times and altering the sequence from year to year helps to promote pasture diversity. For instance, many grassland bird species thrive in rotational grazing operations and have a specific preference for the height of vegetation they like to nest in. By providing different heights of vegetation, a greater number of bird species will find their particular preferred height in a single pasture. Also, burning sections of our hay fields or pastures can reduce weeds and pests, promote new growth, and even alter the palatability of forage to influence grazing patterns or increase the selectivity of undesirable forage species.

Resources and Technical Assistance

When considering implementation of a conservation practice don't hesitate to consult with a local resource professional. Your local Land & Water Conservation, NRCS, and FSA offices are a great place to find out about conservation options and cost share funding that might be available to help you achieve your goals. Local non-profit organizations can also be a great place to find conservation expertise. For instance, Valley Stewardship Network provides landowners with free whole farm mapping services and planning for prairie and pollinator plantings. We work with multiple partners who provide landowners with expertise on a multitude conservation initiatives including: whole farm planning, managed grazing plans, cover crop assistance, stream restoration, forestry, and conservation easements. These partner organizations include the Pasture Project and Wallace Center at Winrock International, Mississippi Valley Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Southwest Badger RC&D, Kickapoo Grazing Initiative, and The Prairie Enthusiasts. If you are located in SW Wisconsin and are looking for some free assistance to get started with on-farm conservation practices and projects, contact Valley Stewardship Network at info@valleystewardshipnetwork.org or 608-637-3615. ■

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