



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COMMUNITY HOMESTEAD	1
FROM THE DIRECTOR	1
PREVENTING AND DEALING WITH PESTICIDE DRIFT ON ORGANIC FARMS	4
A WILD GOD AT OUR TABLE: CALLING FOR ORGANIC COMMUNITY ACTION	5
CERTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE	6
ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM	12
CLASSIFIEDS	14
EVENTS	15



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Cori Skolaski, Executive Director

Hello, and cheers to another edition of MOSA's newsletter.

As Spring is rolling into Summer, many of our clients are preparing for their annual inspection. **To make your inspection the most effective**, here are some things to keep in mind:

- If you are adding new land to your certificate, it will need to be inspected prior to grazing or sales.
- New facilities, production lines, unique production equipment, or livestock must be inspected before they can be added to your certification.
- All inputs must be reviewed and approved before use.

see DIRECTOR on page 3



the ORGANIC Cultivator

VOL. 16 ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2018

Community Homestead - Carrying for Community

Formed 25 years ago, Community Homestead was inspired by five people's experience with a similar program, the world renowned Camphill Community. Camphill is an international non-profit originally founded by Dr. Karl König, an Austrian pediatrician and educator who fled the Nazi annexation of his own country and settled in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1939 with a group





of young physicians, artists and caregivers. Dr. Koenig and his colleagues were inspired by Anthroposophy, the teaching of philosopher and educator Rudolf Steiner. These refugees founded the first Camphill community.

Dr. Koenig's vision was to develop lively Camphill communities together with people who have special needs. His special gift was to understand and focus on the abilities of each person, not the disabilities. A belief strengthened by the Nazi's attempt to marginalize and eliminate undesirable members of their society, and further strengthened by the culture in Europe at the time to keep children and adults with disabilities "hidden away." Through teaching and modeling, he turned this gift into an effective approach for improving the lives of people with special needs, an approach based on community members teaching and learning from each other through the experience of day-to-day living. The central premise of the Camphill Community was that "each person is a unique and valuable individual."

Camphill Communities often center around agricultural production, with the daily tasks being shared by all the members of the community. There are now 100 Camphill Communities internationally, with 12 located in the US and Canada. There are also at least another 25 communities that are directly inspired by Camphill, including Community Homestead, located near Osceola, Wisc.

"Community Homestead was started by five people who came together after experience with Camphill Communities, but wanted a program that was more integrated into the surrounding community," noted Adrian Werthmann, one of the original five founders.

"I was an organic farmer in Scotland, and had grown up near the original Camphill Community. I moved to the US and worked on a certified organic livestock farm in southern Pennsylvania. Organic is just what I have always done. I moved to the Midwest with the idea to start an organic dairy and a Camphill inspired community."

"When we started Community Homestead 25 years ago, we were just five people who started with a rented farmhouse, but we were quickly joined by others. The founding members are not the key to our success. Growing was just as important."

"We had no money whatsoever, well \$10,000, but we convinced the bank to finance us. We never mentioned organic during the whole discussion. At the time, banks were not keen on financing organic farming. We bought the cows and equipment on a five year loan, and set the land price to pay off. Unfortunately, we had to spray the fields at first to appease the banks, but we had to go organic."

"At first we started out with cows, because of my familiarity, and we put in fences, irrigation and trees" said Adrian, "but the garden expanded over the years

to become as important. We paid off the chattel loan in five years, and then we paid off the land in one lump sum. Later we built another house, a community center, bought two more houses, and built a processing kitchen/bakery. The community has grown as the farm has developed."

"We have 12-14 long term volunteers that we call 'carrying people'. They carry responsibility to the community by organizing activity areas, like the garden, the bak-



ery, or the dairy, and leading a household. Nobody is salaried. Their needs, housing and food, are taken care of by the non-profit," explained Adrian. "Here we make sure that everyone can participate."

"The farm is a combination of a lot of different income streams. We are always experimenting," exclaimed Adrian. The farm, now 280 acres of owned ground, and another 86 rented, has a 14-18 acre garden with a 260 member CSA, 38 milking cows, a one acre orchard, and uncertified beef, pigs and chickens.

"We began our transition in 1993 and certified for the first time in 1996. We were part of the early group that shipped milk to Organic Valley. The CSA started small, and we delivered by hand, but that has expanded to be one of the larger areas of the farm. Our largest CSA pickup site is now the farm. Twenty years ago, we could never do that in Osceola," remembered Adrian.

"It was always important for us to be connected to the community. We maintain relationships with several Waldorf schools, other schools, and special education community groups. It is important for people to experience people with disabilities in productive roles. Many of those that visit Community Homestead come back, either to volunteer, to donate, or to support our efforts in other ways. We are always looking for like minded people- we grow organically," emphasized Adrian.

"It's hard for some people to envision a life without

- If you need to change your organic system plan or certificate, review NOP Handbook Instruction 2615 for details. Be sure to notify us of any changes, if portions of your operation are being removed from organic production, if there has been the application of any prohibited substances (intentional or not), or any other change that you think may affect compliance.
- Your current organic certificate does not expire unless you surrender or we suspend or revoke it; your 2017 organic certificate is valid until we issue your 2018 certificate. As long as we don't tell you otherwise, you are good to go.
- At any time, you can review your organic system plans and paperwork, see your inspection report, view or pay certification or inspection fees, and view and print your organic certificate online, by visiting mymosa.org. Around 40% of our clients have gone paperless, and find it very convenient.
- If you call MOSA, it would be very helpful if you would have your account number handy; you can find it on your organic certificate, and if you receive letters/emails from us, it is above your name on the mailing label.

Welcome new staff and board members!

In February, we welcomed three new members to our Board of Directors: Beth Unger, Organic Valley, Lizzy Haywood, People's Food Co-op, La Crosse; Altfrid Krusenbaum; and Carla Wright. We offer our thanks and appreciation to the members leaving the board, Denise Thornton and Sue Baird.

In May and June, we welcomed two new Certification Specialists to MOSA: Dusty Kline, who after his training period will telecommute from his home in Columbus, Ohio, and Kelsey Barale who is relocating to Viroqua from St. Paul, Minnesota.

What's new?

MOSA is in development of an additional certification to offer clients, an organic dairy grass-fed certification. While the dairy industry as a whole is experiencing a decrease in sales, grass-fed products are on the upswing and consumer demand is increasing. We'll be rolling out a grass-fed dairy certification later this year, and we hope to follow it with grass-fed beef and perhaps swine, as well. If you have any questions or are interested in grass-fed certification, give us a call.

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. ■

PREVENTING AND DEALING WITH PESTICIDE DRIFT ON ORGANIC FARMS

By Harriet Behar

While pesticide drift onto fields, livestock or a homestead can be a problem for anyone, organic farmers suffer more negative consequences based upon the land stewardship requirements of organic certification. There are steps organic farmers can take to prevent drift and if the unfortunate event occurs, obtain compensation.

While laws differ from state to state, all govern the misapplication of pesticides on to non-target areas. Each state's rules vary by strictness, fines/punishment, training of applicators, and how consistently the rules are enforced. Contact your state department of agriculture and have on hand the information you need to file a pesticide complaint. The Pesticide Action Network has a toolkit for dealing with pesticide drift <http://www.panna.org/resources/case-pesticide-drift>

Genetic trespass, or GMO drift is not covered by any state or federal laws and crop insurance does not cover damages caused by pesticide or genetic drift.

An ounce of prevention

A friendly, non-threatening discussion with all of your neighbors, informing them that you farm organically and that pesticide drift or fertilizer runoff could negatively affect your organic market access for 1-3 years, usually results in more care being taken by these neighbors when these organically prohibited substances are being applied. Do not disparage their type of farming, instead discuss that organic has specific rules that you need to follow, and that the application of these chemicals on your crops is not allowed.

Using the sprayer further away from the fence-line, not spraying on windy days, or maintaining/planting windbreaks are some steps they could take. If there is aerial spraying, identify your organic land on aerial photos for their custom applicators, so they know areas of extra caution. Share these aerial photos with local airports where the crop dusters are based. Providing this information can help prevent drift, and if it does occur, this organic status

pre-notification makes your case for compensation stronger. There is also a free online service <https://driftwatch.org> where you can note your organic fields.

Electric companies, road crews, railroads and other entities could have a legal "right of way" through or adjoining your land. They are allowed to keep the area free of obstructions, but legally they do not have permission to use herbicides, although the assumption is that they can spray. Contact the municipality or company and tell them you want a written "no-spray" agreement. This is a two-party understanding, where they will cut and clear the area one time and landowner will keep it clear of unwanted vegetation. Contact the company or municipality every few years so they remind their spray crews (many times outside companies) to avoid your area. "No spray" signs are a good idea. You may be required to dig out Canada thistle or mow the ditches as part of your agreement, but you should not be asked to maintain the area better than they do.

If Drift Happens

Sprays can still drift, with some types such as dicamba, more prone to volatilization and long-distance movement. If you can smell the pesticide, you are being drifted upon. The first thing is to avoid direct contact with the pesticide, these are poisons which can result in health problems. If you or a family member has dizziness, headaches, nausea or other symptoms, you should visit the doctor immediately to both document this occurrence and develop a plan to mitigate that exposure. You should take a shower, remove the clothes you were wearing during that exposure, and place them in a tight plastic bag, so they could be tested for residues. If livestock were drifted upon, watch their behavior and health closely for a couple of weeks.

If you can move and leave a car, truck or other piece of equipment with a hard-smooth surface in an area where the drift is occurring, these types of surfaces provide a good place for state regulators to take samples of what was sprayed. The second thing you should do is call your

A WILD GOD AT OUR TABLE: CALLING FOR ORGANIC COMMUNITY ACTION

Stephen Walker, Operations Manager

On the wall of my office, I've posted a poem: [Sometimes a Wild God](#), by Tom Hirons. It speaks to things that shake our comfort and might bring fear, but ultimately bring life.

*"Sometimes a wild god comes to the table.
He is awkward and does not know the ways
Of porcelain, of fork and mustard and silver.
His voice makes vinegar from wine.*

*When the wild god arrives at the door,
You will probably fear him.
He reminds you of something dark
That you might have dreamt,
Or the secret you do not wish to be shared.*

*He will not ring the doorbell;
Instead he scrapes with his fingers
Leaving blood on the paintwork,
Though primroses grow
In circles round his feet.*

*You do not want to let him in.
You are very busy.
It is late, or early, and besides...
You cannot look at him straight
Because he makes you want to cry..."*

If you've followed these industry updates, you know it's been a challenging year for our organic standards. Regulators have been called to task toward better enforcement, while challenged to keep pace with rapid market changes. A year ago in these pages I considered [abso-lutes and common ground](#), seeking a "heart full of inspiration to keep up the good fight." With the new administration in DC, we assessed our intended food system revolution compared to corporate power concentration and economies of scale. Later in 2017, MOSA purposefully identified our vision - "A thriving organic world" - and named our values, to guide working toward a system that's just, empowering, restorative, and biologically sound. These are: Service (Outstanding customer service and MOSA's leadership within the organic community are vital tenets of our work.); Relationships (We value human connections and ethical interactions.); Quality (We believe that integrity, professionalism, and practicality lead to sound certification decisions.); and,

Optimism (Organic offers viable solutions to urgent global challenges. A thriving organic world must have balance: socio-economic justice, ecological sustainability, and the interdependent well-being of individuals, communities, and ecosystems.) Through this work, we have considered how we handle "otherness." When a



stranger arrives, sometimes we have to balance an urge to fight, or hide, with recognition that breaking bread helps us discover common ground and new perspective. But, it can get uncomfortable.

*"The wild god stands in your kitchen.
Ivy is taking over your sideboard;
Mistletoe has moved into the lampshades
And wrens have begun to sing
An old song in the mouth of your kettle..."*

*...When your wife calls down,
You close the door and
Tell her it's fine.
You will not let her see
The strange guest at your table..."*

It's a disconcerting time in our organic community. A number of issues are causing a questioning of our values and absolutes. The discontent is a call to adapt and assess, to prepare good ground for growing our deep values. The stranger at the door calls us to action.

For example, as of this writing, we are calling for changes to 2018 farm bill proposals that threaten to end organic as we've known it. [An opinion piece in FoodTank](#) gave a good summary of the farm bill's threat to organic.

CERTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE

by Jackie DeMinter, Certification Policy Manager

Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices Rule Update - Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) Rule Update - The rule was withdrawn, effective May 13th. We are continuing to talk about our options for additional verification here at MOSA and among certifiers as well. A working group will soon take up the rule (again) to see if there are best practices certifiers can agree to today - meaning which rules can be incorporated into our current interpretations - and then also discuss new or clarified rules which seem to go above the current regulations and would be more difficult to implement. The Organic Trade Association (OTA) and the Center for Food Safety are continuing their fight against the withdrawal with their lawsuits, so hopefully this will not be the end of the road for the OLPP rule. On a side note, we also hear the Origin of Livestock rulemaking will continue to be on pause indefinitely. No further action is planned. Likewise for other would be rule changes to the practice standards we've talked about for a long time, like mushrooms, apiculture and aquaculture.

Baler Twine and Residue Tests Update - We've been talking about twine a lot at MOSA. My last newsletter article brought to your awareness the issues and now, we've had some questions from some clients who chop twine into the feed. What are your options? Aside from not including it in the feed, we're not sure. The aspect of the question that's easy to address is that prohibited materials are not allowed in feed. Twine is not an acceptable feed additive in general, and the presence of the chemical, O-phenylphenol, is reason for further concern. When residues of prohibited materials are found in organic crops, the result is that the crop cannot be considered organic. We are still allowing twine for use as a crop tool that's removed and disposed of, yet we are keenly aware that positive residue tests could come from baled hay too. We have brought this topic up to the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) and to the National Organic Program (NOP) as an issue of concern to us. We think a possible solution is to see treated twine listed as a crop tool on the National List to allow for its use baling and bundling crops. Inclusion in feed would still have to be addressed. We're encouraging farmers invested in this subject to petition the NOSB for addition of treated twine to the National List. More information on the petition process and making changes to the National List can be found here: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/national-list>.

Paper pots- You may be aware that the acceptability of paper pots, particularly the chain pots used in the Japanese paper pot transplant system, has been under question. MOSA has allowed the use of paper pots, including the pots used in the transplant system for several years. Recently, the NOP was asked to make a determination and so in February they resolved a question among certifiers about the acceptability of paper pots in organic production. They responded with a letter to certifiers that said, *"Upon review of the information provided, NOP has determined that the use of paper chain transplanting pots does not comply with the requirements at section 205.601 of the National List."* and went on to state, *"Parties interested in further consideration of paper transplanting pots for the National List can submit a petition for review by the National Organic Standards Board. Petitions can be submitted according to the current petition guidelines, NOP 3011, available in the NOP Handbook."* The NOP is allowing farmers to use previously approved paper pots including the pots used in the transplant system this year, but as it stands right now, farmers will need to discontinue use prior to the 2019 growing season. The NOP clarified the rules. Paper is only on the National List for use in two applications -

(b) As herbicides, weed barriers, as applicable. (2) Mulches. (i) Newspaper or other recycled paper, without glossy or colored inks. and

(c) As compost feedstocks—Newspapers or other recycled paper, without glossy or colored inks.

The use of paper as a plant pot needs to be a listed use as well, thus the NOSB needs to receive a petition to consider it for addition to the National List. We feel a listing for paper under productions aids on 205.601 would solve the problem. To this end, we organized and submitted a petition for a generic listing for NOSB consideration. We also requested, and the NOP said they will consider, a longer phase out period to allow for the petition process to unfold. If you are a farmer using paper pots, consider commenting to the NOSB at the Fall NOSB meeting which will be held in St. Paul, MN from October 24-26. There will be opportunities for commenting via webinar prior to the meeting as well as at the in-person meeting. It's not certain that this topic will make it onto the agenda for the Fall meeting, but you can still comment on it. We will keep you posted.

Auction facilities -Do you use auction facilities for sale or purchase of organic animals? If so, you should be

aware that facilities taking over management of the livestock (such as housing them temporarily, feeding them, bedding them, etc) must be certified as organic livestock handlers. For sales where management is not assumed by the facility, the National Organic Standards does still allow for confinement of livestock for sorting, shipping, and sales, given the animal is maintained under continuous organic management, including organic feed, throughout the extent of their allowed confinement and this management is fully explained in your Organic System Plan and approved by MOSA. Contact us with any questions regarding requirements for the facility you use.

National List Proposed Changes - On April 27, 2018 the USDA AMS published a [proposed rule](#) to amend the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List). This rule proposes to add elemental sulfur in organic livestock production for treatment of livestock and housing. This addition will allow elemental sulfur to be used as a topical pesticide treatment to repel mites, fleas and ticks from livestock and their living spaces. The proposed rule would also reclassify potassium acid tartrate from .605(b) to .606, requiring its use in organic form when commercially available.

Comments must be received by midnight on June 29, 2018. If you are interested in making comments, follow the instructions on [regulations.gov](#) or send your comments by US 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. All comments must include the docket number AMS-NOP-17-0080; NOP-17-09, and/or Regulatory Information Number (RIN) 0581-AD78 and clearly indicate the proposed rule topic and section number to which the comment refers. In addition, comments should clearly state whether the commenter supports the action being proposed and also the reason(s) for the position. Comments can also include information on alternative management practices, where applicable, that support alternatives to the proposed amendments. Comments should also offer any recommended language change(s) that would be appropriate to the position. Any relevant information and data to support the position such as scientific, environmental, manufacturing, industry, or impact information, or similar sources should be included as well.

- On April 4th, the USDA AMS published the [notification of 2018 Sunset Review](#). They announced the renewal of 17 substances on the National List which will have a new sunset date of May 29, 2023, including carrageenan *which was recommended for removal by the NOSB in 2016*. The AMS reviewed the comments to the NOSB and found sufficient evidence showing that carrageenan continues to be necessary for handling agricultural products because of the unavailability of wholly natural substitutes. The 17 substances that will remain on the list are:

- Copper sulfate as an algicide in aquatic rice systems (205.601(a)(3))
- Ozone gas as an irrigation system cleaner only (205.601(a)(5))
- Peracetic acid (205.601(a)(6))
- Copper sulfate as a tadpole shrimp control in aquatic rice production (205.601(e)(4))
- Peracetic acid (205.601(i)(8))
- EPA List 3 - Inerts of unknown toxicity - for use only in passive pheromone dispensers (205.601(m)(2))
- Calcium chloride, brine process is natural and prohibited for use except as a foliar spray to treat a physiological disorder associated with calcium uptake (205.602(c))
- Agar-agar, animal enzymes as annotated, mined calcium sulfate, carrageenan, glucono delta-lactone except when produced by the oxidation of the D-glucose with bromine water, tartaric acid made from grape wine (205.605(a))
- Cellulose for use in regenerative casings and as an anti-caking agent (non-chlorine bleached) and as a filtering aid, potassium hydroxide except that lye peeling of fruits and vegetables is prohibited except for peeling peaches, silicon dioxide is permitted as a defoamer and allowed for other uses when organic rice hulls are not commercially available (205.605(b))
- Beta-carotene extract color when derived from carrots or algae (pigment CAS # 7235-40-7) (205.606(c)(2))

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, chaired by Pat Roberts, was expected to release its version of the farm bill in late May. Last July, Roberts slammed the organic regulatory process, targeting the National Organic Standards Board, and asserting a need for NOSB process reforms to help grow organic. This raised fears that the 2018 Farm Bill process could be used to cripple the NOSB and weaken our standards.

In fact, organic's success has relied on strong standards, and consumer trust. We depend on the NOSB's good governance and organic pioneers' foresight in codifying the NOSB as a gatekeeper, a volunteer citizen board directly engaging with the organic community to continually improve our standards. However, the USDA increasingly is failing to enact key NOSB recommendations, growing community discontent.

MOSA was among nearly 150 organizations that signed on to a [letter](#) to Roberts, ranking member Debbie Stabenow and the Senate Agriculture Committee. We're calling on lawmakers to oppose changes in the farm bill that would undermine the National Organic Standards Board. We also called for full funding for the Conservation Stewardship Program — which was slated to be phased out under the House farm bill.

The House farm bill was also damaging to good governance and sound standards enforcement. It also sought to undermine the NOSB, by, for example: allowing NOSB seats currently designated for farmers, handlers and retailers to be filled with business employees rather than owners or general managers; by enabling an "expedited process" for allowance of post-harvest handling and food safety materials; and by requiring the NOSB to work with FDA or EPA when reviewing petitioned materials approved by those agencies. The House version also refused to renew funding for programs that help family-scale farmers, including the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program.

Although the first House version of the farm bill was voted down (over disagreements on immigration), we're calling for continued vigilance toward defending the integrity of our collaborative organic governance process.

*"The wild god asks for whiskey
And you pour a glass for him,
Then a glass for yourself.
Three snakes are beginning to nest
In your voicebox. You cough.*

*Oh, limitless space.
Oh, eternal mystery.*

*Oh, endless cycles of death and birth.
Oh, miracle of life.
Oh, the wondrous dance of it all.*

*You cough again,
Expectorate the snakes and
Water down the whiskey,
Wondering how you got so old
And where your passion went..."*

Where do we find our passion for organic vision? Much is expressed at NOSB meetings. In Tucson, AZ, in April, the NOSB debated eight proposals, two discussion documents, 40 National List inputs scheduled for 2020 sunset, and considered 1,600 written comments received prior to the meeting, plus over 13 hours of oral testimony. NOSB meetings shine as a functional democratic forum for checking our values and working towards continuous improvement.

Ahead of the meeting, we heard some controversy regarding NOSB authority over its own work plan. The delayed agenda had conspicuous omissions. And, at the start of the meeting, we still awaited appointments for two vacant NOSB seats. New representatives were named at the beginning of the meeting, but too late for their meeting participation. Eric Schwartz, handler appointee, is CEO of the United Vegetable Growers Cooperative and has held positions at several other fresh food companies. The new environmentalist appointee, James Greenwood, is an avocado grower who's been active in UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and the Hass Avocado Board. Community eyes and ears are open to learn more about these appointees, while rhetoric about changing the NOSB's makeup and authority raised some trepidation.

Jackie DeMinter represented MOSA at the Tucson meeting. She observed, "I think if I had to characterize this meeting it would be 'quiet,' lacking some loud and controversial voices and topics." Compared to recent heavy organic news, she noted it was nice to have the break. Jackie also drew attention to expert panels' (one comprised of representatives from trade, the other comprised of certifiers) discussions on integrity of imports and the organic supply chain. She observed that, after attending many NOSB meetings over the years, this was the most focused discussion she'd seen. These panel discussions took half a day, including NOSB subcommittee discussion. Trade panel suggestions included mandatory certification for currently excluded operations, inspection systems at U.S. ports, increased testing, prioritizing use of organic (HS) codes, improv-

ing NOP's complaint system, utilizing block chain or similar technology, and considering a US International Trade Commission study. Certifier panel suggestions included increased inspector qualifications and training, requiring acreage reporting to the NOP Integrity database, improved inter-certifier collaboration on investigations, and increased import/export activity tracking. The Organic Trade Association meeting report observed, "This discussion displayed the current Board's confidence and effectiveness in advising USDA on matters where there is unanimity among organic stakeholders." The Certification and Compliance Subcommittee now faces a tough task in collating all information, and preparing a fully developed Import Oversight proposal for the Fall 2018 meeting. that, after attending many NOSB meetings over the years, this was the most focused discussion she'd seen. These panel discussions took half a day, including NOSB subcommittee discussion. Trade panel suggestions included mandatory certification for currently excluded operations, Inspection systems at U.S. ports, increased testing, prioritizing use of organic (HS) codes, improving NOP's complaint system, utilizing block chain or similar technology, and considering a US International Trade Commission study. Certifier panel suggestions included increased inspector qualifications and training, requiring acreage reporting to the NOP Integrity database, improved inter-certifier collaboration on investigations, and increased import/export activity tracking. [The Organic Trade Association](#) meeting report observed, "This discussion displayed the current Board's confidence and effectiveness in advising USDA on matters where there is unanimity among organic stakeholders." The Certification and Compliance Subcommittee now faces a tough task in collating all information, and preparing a fully developed Import Oversight proposal for the Fall 2018 meeting.

For this April meeting, MOSA submitted a half-dozen written comments (available on the [news and commentary section of our website](#)) on: defense of native ecosystems, emergency use of parasiticides, genetic integrity in organic seed, organic inspector qualifications, and sunset reviews. Additionally, I presented verbal comments on organic seed genetic integrity, and referenced a [letter we recently sent to the Secretary of Agriculture](#) expressing concern over the override of the NOSB's carrageenan decision, and stressing the importance of NOSB support. In Tucson, Jackie sparked new discussion on paper pots and baling twine. (Details are in Jackie's Policy overview in this newsletter.) It's sometimes a challenge for us to get to these meetings, but we find that our voices make a difference, and, we gain new perspective.

The NOSB unanimously passed proposals on a Definition of "emergency treatment" in organic livestock; Inspector Qualifications and Training; Reclassification of Magnesium Chloride (natural forms only); and, a Petition to add Sulfur as a Molluscicide to the National List. The Board also passed (with majority) a Petition to add Polyoxin D Zinc Salt as Biofungicide in organic crop production, and the Eliminating the Incentive to Convert Native Ecosystems proposal. Two petitions failed: one to allow Sodium Dodecylbenzene Sulfonate as a direct sanitizer for produce, and another to add Glycolic Acid as an organic livestock teat dip.

The next NOSB meeting is in our neck of the woods, in St. Paul, MN, October 24-26. We expect proposals for: Establishing a Seed Purity Standard (focus areas include scoping the problem, exploring theoretical thresholds on high-risk crops - with a focus on testing protocols and associated costs, and, exploring a process to work with farmers to retain seed samples for future testing); 2020 Sunset Materials. (The public raised some concerns about these inputs: For crops - Aqueous Potassium Silicate, Newspaper or other Recycled Paper; Elemental Sulfur, Liquid Fish Fertilizer, Ethylene, and Microcrystalline Cheesewax; For livestock - Sucrose Octanoate Esters; and, For handling - Glycerides, Fructooligosaccharides, Gums, Lecithin, and Tragacanth Gum.); Organic Seed Usage; Marine Materials; and, a new discussion document on Packaging Substances used in Organic Food Handling, including BPA.

The Tucson meeting also continued discussion regarding various additional verifications, including the regenerative movement, the Real Organic Project, and grassfed dairy standards. With concerns about the USDA's pace, and intentions, in working toward standards change, these newly-arising additional standards have created a lot of buzz. It's been difficult to digest the calling of this "wild god/stranger." We value unity in diversity and inclusiveness. However, some add-ons have an air of divisiveness, and all point to discontent. Our stakeholders - certified clients, MOSA staff and Board, consumers - want Standards improvement, and continued recognition of our NOP regulations as the "gold standard," with high vision and noble values. And yet, we recognize that sound improvements take time. Maybe we feel some hurt when comparing where we are now to our unachieved wilder, wider organic vision. Currently, we're moving our feet on a few of these callings, developing a grassfed dairy verification, and helping to promote the development of the [Regeneration Midwest Alliance](#). And yet, it's hard to read how best to proceed. So, we do a lot of listening, holding close our optimism, setting our eyes on vision.

*"In the distance, warriors pour from their tombs.
Ancient gold grows like grass in the fields.
Everyone dreams the words to long-forgotten songs.
The hills echo and the grey stones ring
With laughter and madness and pain..."*

*...The wild god points to your side.
You are bleeding heavily.
You have been bleeding for a long time,
Possibly since you were born.
There is a bear in the wound..."*

As of early May, there's another call to action. The USDA is now seeking comments on its latest GMO disclosure rule, renamed as the "National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard." Comments are being received until July 3rd. This 106-page rule leaves lingering questions, including whether the prohibition covers foods from gene editing, and how much GMO ingredient a food must contain before it requires GMO labeling. [Our website](#) includes details on how to submit comments, and, early comments can be viewed at [Regulations.gov](#).

With this issue, it's important to emphasize that organic is non-GMO, and much more. As such, organic is exempt from the GMO label disclosure regulation. Our regulations (§205.105) prohibit the use of "excluded methods," defined as: "A variety of methods 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. Such methods include cell fusion, microencapsulation and macroencapsulation, and recombinant DNA technology (including gene deletion, gene doubling, introducing a foreign gene, and changing the positions of genes when achieved by recombinant DNA technology). Such methods do not include the use of traditional breeding, conjugation, fermentation, hybridization, in vitro fertilization, or tissue culture." Standards compliance requires that operations have verifiable practices in place to avoid contact with GMOs.

From a continuous improvement perspective, we'd emphasize NOSB work: GMO prevention strategies recommendations, ongoing assessment of new bioengineering technologies to determine which are defined as excluded methods, and development of seed purity requirements.

It's encouraging to read the new public comments on this issue, which outcry for transparency.

*'There is a symphony of howling.
A cacophony of dissent.
The wild god nods his head and
You wake on the floor holding a knife,
A bottle and a handful of black fur.*

*Your dog is asleep on the table.
Your wife is stirring, far above.
Your cheeks are wet with tears;
Your mouth aches from laughter or shouting.
A black bear is sitting by the fire..."*

These interesting organic times call for promoting that our success depends on strong standards and consumer confidence in organic values. An [overview of the 2018 Organic Industry Survey](#) from the Organic Trade Association indicates that organic grew at 6.4% in the US in 2017, reaching annual sales of \$49.4 billion. The OTA report shows how organic has thrived since the advent of our NOP Standards, but also shows that consumer perception of weakness in our standards can hurt growth. "Pasture-raised eggs, which clearly delineate humane practices such as outdoor access, presented stiff competition for organic eggs in 2017. Consumers perceive organic as requiring a number of humane practices including outdoor access for livestock and poultry. However, the requirements as written within current federal organic standards are unclear and inconsistently applied. The organic industry worked to advance the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule to clarify required practices, but the rule was abruptly withdrawn by the USDA in 2017. USDA's squelching of this regulation widely supported by the organic sector caused millions of consumers to question the meaning and relevance of the USDA Organic seal as it relates to dairy and egg products. This confusion and uncertainty dampened consumer demand for both organic eggs and organic dairy." Perhaps this is tough news, but, it calls us back to our wilder origins, to action, to new life.

*"Sometimes a wild god comes to the table.
He is awkward and does not know the ways
Of porcelain, of fork and mustard and silver.
His voice makes vinegar from wine
And brings the dead to life."*

Like new blood, the wild god comes to our table to spark the passion and values which persistently run deep in this organic movement, which continue to spur life. Let's not tame our fear or shrink from his call. ■

state's pesticide enforcement bureau and ask they dispatch an investigator to take samples. Typically, they need to arrive within 48 hours to find residues, so do not delay in making your phone call. Document the time of day, the length of time, the type of equipment and operator where possible, the wind speed and direction, visual impacts (take photos) and any other relevant information to provide to the state and start the documentation you will need if you are seeking monetary compensation from the applicator. Try to intercept the applicator before they leave the field and tell them your land was drifted upon and get their contact information.

Once the state has documented that a spray incident has occurred, they may decide to fine the operator. If this applicator has numerous infractions, they could lose their applicator license. The state will also find out what material was sprayed, and they can share that information with you. This may be the only way you could obtain this information.

If the drift only affected your buffer zone, you will need to increase that area to keep a buffer between the drifted area and your organic harvested crop. Within a week of the incident, contact your certifier, so they can decide if they need to send out an organic inspector as well as how much of your crop and land will be impacted and for how long.

Seeking Monetary Compensation

Obtaining monetary compensation for your loss of organic certification of that crop will be much more difficult, to almost impossible, without the state's objective third party confirmation of the drift incident. The state can also help determine how much of your land was impacted, and this is important information to share with your organic certifier.

Whether or not you plan to seek monetary compensation for damages, it is very important you report the incident to the state and to your certifier. If incidents are not reported, the state may not see a need to improve the enforcement of the pesticide laws. If you do plan to seek monetary damages, be prepared to spend at least a year interacting with the applicator's insurance company. Your organic certification documentation is invaluable. You have documentation of your typical yields, the value of your crop, and what your

crop rotations would be for the following three years. These records will have been verified as accurate by your certifier, an arm of the federal government. Most insurance companies would be willing to pay you the nonorganic price for the crop lost for the one year. They will need convincing to pay organic prices for crops grown on that land for three years.

You may need to obtain a wide variety of documentation, including letters from buyers stating they would have purchased the crops at the organic price and the cost of purchasing organic crops if you needed to replace what you lost to the drift to meet a contract or feed your organic livestock. The federal government maintains an organic price report for crops, vegetables and livestock products, another good item to provide to prove the value of your losses.

Unfortunately, there is no compensation for the time you have spent dealing with the drift incident, or the pain and suffering you experience due to the stress of this incident. You may also find that land, even after three years, may have different weeds and fertility challenges, compared to organic land that had not been drifted. You will not encounter compassion from the applicator, insurance agent or the state for the stress you are experiencing due to this chemical trespass, but do not let this stop you from obtaining damages and hopefully deterring this from happening again in the future.■

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION COST SHARE PROGRAM

Help with Organic Certification Costs

By Lexy McManaway, MOSA Cost Share Coordinator

The USDA Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) provides financial assistance to certified organic operations and helps to defray the cost of certification. Certified organic operations that apply for the organic share, can expect to receive 75% up to \$750 for each category or “scope” of certification for certification fees and eligible certification costs paid between 10/1/2017 – 9/30/2018. Scopes include crop, livestock, wild crop, and handler. For example, an organic operation certified in one scope – crop – that has paid \$1,000 in organic certification fees can expect a reimbursement of \$750. A two-scope operation - crop and livestock - that has paid \$2,000 can expect \$1,500 (\$750 per scope). Reimbursement is on a first-come, first-serve basis. An operation must have an active organic certificate to be eligible for organic cost share.

Funded by the Farm Bill, OCCSP is administered through the FSA. The FSA is currently accepting applications with an application deadline of 10/31/2018. Contact your local FSA office to request the application.

A number of states also offer the program. State-run cost share programs typically open in June – July (some states even sooner); the application deadlines and requirements can vary from state to state. If you applied through your state program in 2017, you should be receiving an application from your state by July 2018. As of this writing, the USDA website shows the states listed below as accepting cost share applications in 2018. This list may change. We urge you to contact your state agricultural department to confirm. If you will be applying through your state and have not received an application by July 15, 2018, make sure to contact your state.

MOSA assists our clients by providing payment documentation and confirming organic certification status. To apply for organic cost share or if you have questions about the program, contact your local FSA office or your state agricultural department.

Also, feel free to contact, Lexy McManaway, MOSA Cost Share Coordinator 608-637-2526

SOME HELPFUL LINKS:

[USDA Service Center Locator for County FSA offices](#)

[USDA – FSA Cost Share website](#)

[FSA Cost Share Fact Sheet](#)

[MOSA website](#)

*STATES ACCEPTING COST SHARE APPLICATIONS IN 2018 – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

(*states with MOSA-certified operations)

Arkansas

Christian Olson
Arkansas Agriculture Department
1 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205
P: (501) 219-6324
F: (501) 219-1697
Email: Christian.olson@aad.ar.gov
[Cost Share Website](#)

Kansas

Josh Roe
Kansas Department of Agriculture
109 Southwest 9th Street, 4th Floor
Topeka, KS 66612
P: (785) 368-6463
C: (785) 410-0958
Email: Josh.Roe@kda.ks.gov
[Cost Share Website and Forms](#)

Nebraska

Steve Martin
Nebraska Department of Agriculture
301 Centennial Mall
South Lincoln, NE 68509
P: (402) 471-4876
F: (402) 471-2759
Email: Steve.Martin@nebraska.gov
[Cost Share Website](#)

California

Sharon Parsons
California Dept of Food and Agriculture
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
P: (916) 900-5202
F: (916) 900-5347
Email: Sharon.parsons@cdfa.ca.gov
[Cost Share Website](#)

Minnesota

Cassie Dahl
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
625 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55155-2538
P: (651) 201-6134
F: (651) 201-6120
Email: cassie.dahl@state.mn.us
[Cost Share Website](#)

New Jersey

Anne Marie Ference & Nichole Steward
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
369 South Warren Street
Trenton, NJ 08608
P: (609) 984-2224 & (609) 292-5647
F: (609) 984-2508
E-mail: annemarie.ference@ag.nj.gov;
nichole.steward@ag.state.nj.gov
[Cost Share Website & Forms](#)

Florida

Cory Pierce
Florida Department of Agriculture and
Consumer Services
407 South Calhoun Street
Mayo Building, Room 412
Florida Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800
P: (850) 617-7325
F: (850) 617-7331
Email: cory.pierce@freshfromflorida.com
[Cost Share Website](#)

Missouri

Jennifer Hentges
Missouri Department of Agriculture
1616 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 630
Jefferson City, MO 65102
P: (573) 751-1199
F: (573) 751-2868
Email: jennifer.hentges@mda.mo.gov
[Cost Share Website](#)

New York

Anne St. Cyr
NY State Dept of Agriculture & Markets
10B Airline Drive
Albany, NY 12235
P: (518) 485-9974
F: (518) 457-2716
E-mail: Anne.St.Cyr@agriculture.ny.gov
[Cost Share Website](#)

North Carolina

Heather Barnes
North Carolina Dept of Agriculture &
Consumer Services
1020 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1020
P: (919) 707-3127
F: (919) 715-0155
Email: Heather.Barnes@ncagr.gov
[Cost Share Website & Forms](#)

North Dakota

Emily Edlund
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
600 E Boulevard Ave - Room#604
Bismarck, ND 58505
P: (701) 328-2191
F: (701) 328-4567
Email: edlund@nd.gov
[Cost Share Website & Forms](#)

Ohio

Lori Panda
Ohio Department of Agriculture
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
P: (614) 466-8798
F: (614) 466-7754
Applications offered through OEFFA 541-421-2022
Email: Panda@agri.ohio.gov
[Website & Forms](#)

Pennsylvania

Kyle Heffner
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
P: (717) 836-3973
F: (717) 787-5643
E-mail: kyheffner@state.pa.us
[Cost Share Website & Forms](#)

Wisconsin

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Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,
Trade & Consumer Protection
2811 Agriculture Drive
P.O. Box 8911
Madison, WI 53708
P: (608) 224-5095
F: (608) 224-5107
Email: angie.sullivan@wisconsin.gov
[Cost Share Website and Forms](#)



wages and mortgages. We need to work on the bridges. We had amazing experiences with Americorp volunteers. They came in with no experience, stayed for their year, fell in love, and stayed. One third of our carrying group came through Americorp,” noted founding member, Christine Elmquist.

“Ultimately we are a community of teachers (of people) working with people with special needs. Everyone gets really good at teaching. Many come because they love gardening and farming, but they fall in love with the people. Others may come because they like people and teaching, but fall in love with farming. Things feel very comfortable right now, We have a good balance, but we are always interested in finding like-minded people who want to learn, create and sustain this kind of life in the future.”

To learn more about Community Homestead visit:
<http://communityhomestead.org/>

Community Homestead is hosting a community event!

Country Banquet

Sunday, June 24th, 2018: 4 to 9pm
Eat, drink and be merry with us while we fundraise to expand our housing options here for people with special needs. Beautiful banquet sourced from our certified organic gardens orchard and farm, prepared by a team of Saint Paul College chefs and eaten outside among the meadows and flower gardens of this special community. Highlights for the evening include wine and hors d'oeuvres in the flower garden, hayrides and farm tours, and a country chic dinner served in the meadow, under our billowing tent. All funds raised go toward new living opportunities for people with special needs.
[To register.](#)

CLASSIFIEDS

LIVESTOCK - FOR SALE

DAIRY CATTLE

MOSA certified dairy cows. All stages of lactation. Fleckvieh crosses. Call for pricing. Soldiers Grove, WI. Call 608-485-2756.

BABY DAIRY HEIFER CALVES

Six to eight certified organic baby dairy heifer calves for sale. Holstein crosses. Reasonable offers requested. Platteville, WI. Call 608-348-7043.

HOLSTEIN SPRINGING HEIFERS

Holstein springing heifers. Four due in May. Ten due around August. \$1400 each. MOSA certified. Coon Valley, WI. Call (608)632-2503 or (608)452-3397.

LIVESTOCK - WANTED

CERTIFIED ORGANIC COWS

Certified Organic cows, Holstein or Holstein / Fleckvieh cross. Prefer springing heifers, but will look at top quality, young cows. Please contact Troy @ crystalballfarms@yahoo.com or call 715-294-3104. (Prefer to stay within a 90 mile radius of Osceola WI.)

EQUIPMENT

BEDDING EQUIPMENT

Three, like new, low acres, bedding equipment for sale. Button-Willow Power Bedder- 80" - \$12,000. Sled-bedder 80" - \$2000. 3 bed, 80" disc bedder- \$5000. OBO. Sherwood, Michigan. Call Jason: 269-377-2362.

ALLIS-CHALMERS G CULTIVATING TRACTOR

Allis Chalmers "G" cultivating tractor with electric conversion. Newly rebuilt, ready to work. Comes with hydraulic tool bar lift and a cultivator. \$7900. Mora, MN. Call Jim: 612-849-7335.

16 PER SIDE SWING PARLOR

16 per side swing parlor complete w/ 15 Boumatic Flowstar units, 10 hp Boumatic oil-less vacuum pump, receiver can and pump, 3" loop line, wash jetters, wash down pump and piping. Stall work made by Schlutter Co. and chop gates imported from NZ. Includes zig zag rail and butt shields. \$14,000 Call- 920 460-1005.

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.

FORAGES/GRAINS

SOYBEAN BEDDING

4x5 round bales of organic soybean bedding. \$20 per bale. Trucking available. Fort Atkinson, WI. Call 920-650-2976.

2017 COB CORN

MOSA certified cob corn for sale or will trade for organic hay. Pound, WI area. Call 920-672-2672.

COMMERCIAL

CRESCENT MEATS - USDA INSPECTED - CERTIFIED ORGANIC

CRESCENT MEATS - CADOTT, WI
FAMILY OWNED for 15 YEARS
FULL SERVICE SLAUGHTER FACILITY
Phone: 715.289.3000
Email: crescentqualitymeats.com
New Customers Welcome!

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.

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@mosa-organic.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 of any product before purchasing or using.

FEATURED EVENT

MOSA Pennsylvania Client Appreciation Lunch

Saturday, July 14 - 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Consultations from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Lancaster Farm Fresh, Lancaster, PA

Join Mark Geistlinger of MOSA for a fun and informative social/educational event for MOSA clients and for those interested in learning more about organic certification. Free lunch. Free 30 minute paperwork consultations. RSVP required. Call Joe Pedretti at 608-572-7482 to reserve your spot or for more information.

JUNE

Planting for Pollinators

June 23 | 2-3 p.m. | Free | Chaska, Minn.

Are you interested in creating healthy pollinator habitats in your community, yard, or on your patio? Join other environmental enthusiasts as you dive into the science of pollination with U of M Extension Master Gardener Volunteers, and discover what types of flowers, plants, and habitat bring pollinators to the garden.

[Learn more.](#)

Growing Mushrooms Outdoors via Log Inoculation

June 24 | 1-4 p.m. | \$80 | Chaska, Minn. If you have ever taken a walk in the woods, chances are you've seen fungi growing on fallen logs. Wood is a natural medium to grow mushrooms, and has been used for centuries! You will leave with an inoculated log and a comprehensive handout.

[Learn more.](#)

JULY

Transitioning to Organic with a Cover Crop Champion

July 10 | 1-4 p.m. | Austin, Minn.

Join Tom Cotter and the Iowa Organic Association for this field day focused on roller crimping and crumbling rye, cover crops, and organic transition. [Learn more.](#)

Small Grains, Modest Grains: A Pragmatic Approach to Profitability and Sustainability

July 12 | 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. (Registration begins at 7:30) | Free | Janesville, Wis.

At this field day, hosted by OGRAIN and Practical Farmers of Iowa, farmers and others will learn about why growing small grains as part of an extended crop rotation benefits the other cash crops in both conventional and organic cropping systems. Learn how cover crops can be green manures, control weeds while reducing soil erosion, and improving water quality. Learn more about growing organic and non-GMO corn and soybeans and how to best increase yields, provide crop protection, and gain a premium for these crops. Registration begins at 7:30. For more information, email Sarah: sarah@practicalfarmers.org

New Beginnings: Organic Transition at a Diversified Dairy Farm

July 14 | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Maynard, IA

Come for a field day focused on organic transition, medium-scale dairying, rotational grazing, on-farm innovation, and adapting to changing markets. Visitors will tour the dairying facility, walk through grazing paddocks, and see the infrastructure that the Wedemeiers have built over the last two decades to support their growing herd. [Learn more.](#)

Farm Tour: Cala Farm – Summer High Tunnel Production

July 16 | 10 a.m. – noon | \$20 | Turtle Lake, Wis.

Learn from organic farmer & MFA graduate Rodrigo Cala about his farm. He will focus on his use of different hoophouse styles and reviews, crop selection, and best management practices. Farmers who attend will also have the opportunity to share their own experiences. [Learn more.](#)

AUGUST

Planning and Installing Beneficial Insect Habitat

August 10 | Noon – 3 p.m.

Melissa Dunham • Grinnell Heritage Farm

1933 Penrose St. • Grinnell • 50112

The Dunhams will show and discuss several beneficial insect strategies they use on their farm, including beetle banks that were installed among their organic vegetable fields in 2012. Sarah Foltz Jordan, a pollinator conservation specialist with the Xerces Society, will join the conversation, providing additional insight from her experience with on-farm habitat projects around the Midwest.

[Learn more.](#)

Planting Prairie for Pollinators & Other Wildlife

Saturday, August 11 | 9:00 – 1:00 pm | \$45.00

Driftless Folk School Campus, La Farge, WI

In this class we will cover the issues concerning our native pollinators and how we can integrate tallgrass prairie into our landscape to provide resources for pollinators and habitat for other wildlife like grassland birds. You will take home the skills necessary to establish a tallgrass prairie in your backyard or on your farm or rural land. We will also construct native bee houses for you to take home. [Learn More.](#)

Prairie STRIPS and Conservation Easements

Friday, August 17 | 10:00-12:00 pm (lunch to follow) | Free/RSVP

Van Dyke Farm, Vernon County, Wisc.

Planting native tallgrass prairie as a buffer at the edge of crop fields can provide multiple services from improving water quality and soil health to providing resources for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. Research from Iowa State University's prairie STRIPS project has demonstrated that prairie buffers can significantly reduce sediment and nutrient export as well as improving water infiltration. Come visit a working farm that has recently established a prairie buffer. [Learn More.](#)

Landscaping with Native Plants to Attract Birds, Bees, and Butterflies

Saturday, August 25 | 10:00-2:00 pm | Free

MacIntosh Memorial Library, Viroqua, Wisc.

Planting native tallgrass prairie as a buffer at the edge of crop fields can provide multiple services from improving water quality and soil health to providing resources for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. Research from Iowa State University's prairie STRIPS project has demonstrated that prairie buffers can significantly reduce sediment and nutrient export as well as improving water infiltration. Come visit a working farm that has recently established a prairie buffer. [Learn More.](#)

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Viroqua, WI 54665
608-637-2526

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LA CROSSE, WI

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VOL. 16 ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2018

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