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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Cori Skolaski, Executive Director

Hello, and I hope you have been healthy and had a productive summer. This summer we've seen droughts, floods, and general changes in temperatures. In 500 BC, Heraclitus of Ephesus posited that life is like a river. The peaks and troughs, pits and swirls, are all part of the ride, and the only constant is change. And so, we continue to see how climate change is introducing all sorts of new weather patterns to our world which makes farming even more challenging. We sincerely wish you well.

In light of the increasing number of vaccinated people, MOSA has moved into the final stage of our pandemic

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the ORGANIC Cultivator

VOL. 19 ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2021

Plugging Away, With Purpose

By Stephen Walker, Accreditation & Industry Affairs Manager

After reviewing organic community news from the past several months, I'm bringing a handful of discussions to attention, including a look at legislation aimed to speed up regulatory improvements, organic "to-do's" for the Biden administration, an NOSB update, a look at the UN Food Systems Summit, a couple international standards updates, maintaining organic verve when faced with existential uncertainty, and a dose of imagination. Please contact me at MOSA for further details regarding any of these described below.

I was talking with some friends about underlying anxiety and a sense of defeat that many of us feel when listening to news reports. For example, when driving home after a county park hike with my dog this week, a radio report described rapid old growth deforestation in the Pacific Northwest. I recalled a presentation from long ago about environmental activists' resistance to old growth logging. That 1980's talk influenced my career path, but now I was taken aback with dismay how this and so many other battles persist. One friend commented, "whether it's the forests burning or fascists marching, we are rapidly running out of time." We must actively resist. "Woke" lip service isn't enough. However, despair hinders will.

Inspired by Victor Frankl's classic book, [Man's Search for Meaning](#), we also talked about how finding purpose in life is key to moving forward. For me, that reminds of our organic vision, including regenerative organic practices as potential carbon draw-down solutions that heal our existential climate change crisis. But, with so many social and environmental crises in the news, I'm wary that our work is not enough. That makes it harder to keep pushing.

In discussion followup, a friend sent a recent video chat with Chris Hedges (New York Times journalist, Presbyterian minister, author and TV host). Hedges doesn't pull punches when commenting on

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our global crises. While his message is often bleak, [this talk on “our prophetic tradition of resistance”](#) was helpful. Hedges says power that’s lost its credibility is susceptible to truth, but truth-telling resistance requires moral fortitude. We should continue our good “resistance work” because it is right, with focus on the act rather than the end goal, because oftentimes the end goal isn’t successful. But, our goals certainly won’t succeed if we don’t resist. I might say, regardless of conditions, if we don’t plant our good seeds, we don’t get fruits. Hedges says the passive alternative is to accept a *fait accompli*, which, with the climate crisis, means mass death. And being grounded in where we come from - a diverse human history of fighting for life itself, at great cost - is protection against despair. We’re of no use to anyone, even ourselves, unless we find balance as we resist. That may be spiritual or otherwise purpose driven, like considering our childrens’ future.

Hedges warns we can’t be naive regarding the price of resistance. As we become more outspoken and affect necessary change, institutions and authorities become hostile toward our voice. Leaders of movements often suffer the most. Yet history has shown that courage is contagious, and when we’re in extreme moments, where there are fights for life against forces of death, morality clarifies itself.

Organic stakeholders are actively pushing for more rapid change in advancing our values.

CIAO

Congressional legislation introduced in April aims to preserve organic’s cutting edge of a progressive food system. The Continuous Improvement and Accountability in Organic Standards Act (CIAO - H.R. 2918) would require USDA to advance and implement National Organic Standards Board recommendations in a timely manner. The rare, bipartisan bill is endorsed by a broad coalition of farmers, industry, consumers, environmental organizations and over 50 current and former NOSB members.

CIAO calls for a more responsive, transparent federal regulatory process that keeps pace with the organic market. You’re encouraged to ask your Congressperson to support the bill. Further, on July 20th, the Organic Trade Association facilitated virtual meetings with Members of Congress and staff, and from September through December, the OTA is partnering with the Swette Center for Sustainable Food Systems at Arizona State University for a Future of Organic workshop series, to review National Organic Program efficacy, and set a new pathway for the future.

Biden Administration’s organic to-do list

In late June, the Swette Center published The [Critical To-Do List for Organic Agriculture](#), includ-

ing 46 recommendations for President Biden seen as essential changes to strengthen US organic agriculture, including “low-hanging fruit” that could be accomplished almost immediately. Directed by former Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan, the Swette Center develops innovative ideas and solutions to pressing food systems challenges. Organic agriculture is among the Center’s top sustainable food system solutions priorities. The 38-page report’s recommendations address tasks related to Governance, Health, Economics, and Climate.

Earlier, President Biden released his full budget proposal for fiscal year 2022, including increased funding for organic, and climate resiliency. The budget includes \$14 billion directly addressing the greenhouse gas effects, \$1.5 billion for climate-smart ag, research and clean energy programs, \$43 million for NRCS technical assistance, \$46 million for the new Civilian Climate Corps, \$400 million for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and \$200 million for the Rural Energy for America Program. Biden aims to boost EPA’s budget by 21% and includes \$936 million for a new EPA Accelerating Environmental and Economic Justice initiative, a \$1 million increase in National Organic Program funding (to \$19 million), and \$7 million for the Organic Transition Research Program. Also, the Organic Research and Extension Initiative would receive \$28 million in funding for mandatory programs funded by the Farm Bill. The Organic Certification Cost-Share Program includes \$19 million through the end of fiscal year 2023.

And at the OTA’s Annual Membership Meeting in mid-June, US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack previewed his path forward for organic. Vilsack vowed to correct the USDA’s failure to implement the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) rule, addressing animal welfare issues. A day later, he announced that USDA will draft a new rule which will address the Trump administration’s outlier interpretation that negated USDA’s organic animal welfare regulatory oversight. That stalled the critical and fully-vetted OLPP rule, which, among other things, would disallow porches as outdoor access in organic poultry operations. This has been in the Courts since 2017.

Vilsack announced other plans including: finalizing the Origin of Livestock rule in 2021 (MOSA submitted additional comments in July); re-establishing a USDA Organic Policy Advisor; increasing Organic Certification Cost Share funds by “tens of millions of dollars,” to help farmers transitioning to organic; expanding USDA’s emergency foods procurement to include “small- and medium-sized distribution systems” and giving “socially disadvantaged producers” more funding access; a USDA

plan and our office has re-opened to the public. If you are in the neighbourhood and want to drop in, you may do so on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you want to meet with a certification specialist, we ask that you call ahead so one can be available to meet with you. Most of our staff has chosen to remain working remotely from their home offices and as always, we are available by phone or email Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We've been virtual workers for over 16 months now, and found that we are as productive and engaged as when we were together in the office.

In other news, the NOP has developed and expanded the resources available to Spanish speakers seeking information about organic certification, and recently launched a new web page compiling those resources into one place. The new resource repository includes Spanish translations of the Organic Foods Production Act, organic regulations, the NOP Handbook and a variety of other fact sheets, videos and training resources. View the Spanish Language Resources for Organic Stakeholders at: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/spanish-language-responses>

As always, if you have any questions or comments about anything in this newsletter or about MOSA please feel free to contact me at cori@mosaorganic.org or toll free at 844-637-2526. Thank you for reading, and thanks for your continued commitment to organic integrity. ■



initiative to provide resources for building out processing capacity, boosting competition and providing value-added products with more processing outlets; expanding the number and diversity of those involved in inspections and certifications; and, prioritizing climate-smart agriculture and regenerative practices, and creating “new revenue streams for producers who are embracing climate-smart agricultural practices in a way that’s beneficial to farmers.”

NOSB recap

At this time, we're right in between bi-annual National Organic Standards Board meetings. The Spring 2021 Meeting, again held virtually, brought some critical organic progress. Approved new proposals include the Allowing Paper-Based Planting Aids for crop production, clarifications on Ion Exchange Filtration materials used in handling, and a Strategy for Recruitment and Talent Management of Organic Inspectors and Reviewers. The NOSB also unanimously supported a resolution calling for USDA to re-issue the OLPP rule with policy considerations related to outdoor access and space requirements, and support for the CIAO Act.

MOSA provided a number of written comments among over 800 received for the meeting, and Jackie Deminter and I provided verbal testimony on MOSA's behalf. Jackie spoke on various materials concerns and answered some pointed questions from Board members, and I spoke to the importance of keeping certification accessible as we address human capital challenges in our regulatory sector. Soon after the meeting, the NOP launched a new opportunity for funding projects aimed at organic inspector and reviewer workforce development, recruitment, and retention. We also enjoyed watching the American Sign Language interpreters used in this virtual format for the first time, demonstrating NOP's commitment to inclusion in meetings.

A couple international standards updates

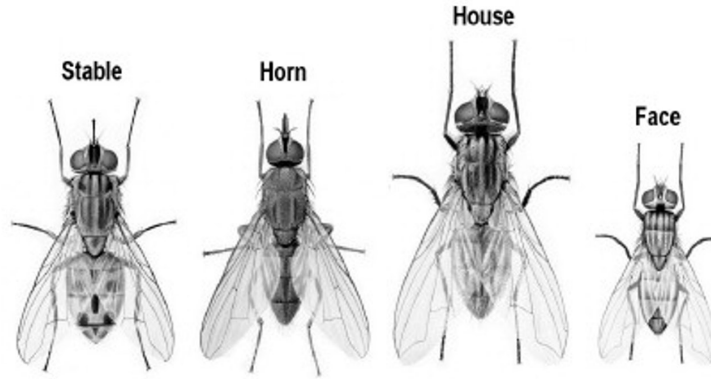
US organic operators that export products to Mexico have a little more time to meet new requirements. In December, Mexico announced that organic imports must be certified to Mexico's Organic Products Law (LPO) or an equivalent standard, by late June. While negotiations continue, Mexico has not yet recognized the USDA organic standards as equivalent, so US organic products going to Mexico must be LPO certified. However, in May, Mexico extended the compliance deadline for US products until January 1, 2022. Also, back in January, MOSA provided NOP with requested feedback regarding Korea's planned electronic import system plan, Implementation was to be July 1st, with additional governments' guidance expected. We've since heard that Korea

ORGANIC FLY CONTROL OPTIONS

By Joe Pedretti, Client Services Director

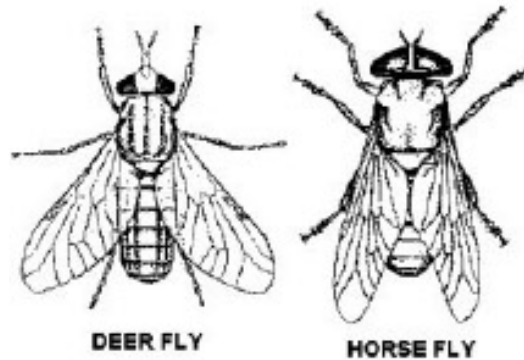
Not all flies are parasites, but there are several species that do bite and feed on the blood of domesticated animals, and can, if their numbers are high, cause economic losses. Parasitic flies also can cause severe discomfort.

Horn flies are about half the size of house flies, are dark gray and have piercing mouthparts. They are blood-sucking flies that stay on the shoulders and backs of cattle almost continuously. During extremely hot weather or when it rains, they may move to the protected underside of the animal.



Source: University of Michigan

Stable flies are sometimes called biting house flies due to their similar appearance. Stable flies feed primarily on legs and lower abdomen of cattle by penetrating the skin and feeding on the blood two to three times a day depending on the weather. Once full, they move to a resting place, usually in the shade, to digest their meal. The blood loss and pain associated with the bite of stable flies results in substantial economic loss.



Source: University of Kentucky

Deer flies are black or dark brown in color, about the size of a house fly, and can be recognized by their triangular shape and bright red or green eyes. Horse flies are very similar to deer flies, but are significantly larger. Only the females need to feed on blood. They do this to obtain the nutrition needed to lay eggs. Both deer flies and horse flies have an aquatic life cycle where the eggs are laid in marshy, wet areas and the larval stage develops in these wet soils. Because of this complex life cycle, they are very difficult to control.

Fortunately, deer and horse flies are mainly a nuisance pest, and do not occur in large enough numbers to inflict substantial physical damage. Still, they are highly annoying to livestock. They use scissor-like mouthparts to slash open a wound to drink the blood. Their saliva prevents blood coagulation, and creates a histamine reaction (large swelling at the bite). For this reason, livestock often stop eating to seek refuge from deer and horse flies.

Preventive Control Options for Flies

Sanitation and manure management are key to controlling horn and stable flies. Clean out pens, exercise areas, feed bunks, hutches and stalls frequently (minimum 1x weekly). These flies will breed in spilled,

wet feed, so do not neglect areas under bunks and in other feeding areas.

Muscovy ducks are well known as voracious eaters of fly larvae and pupae; chickens are also a good option. A small flock allowed to patrol outside pens and around hutches can bring down fly populations. Some farmers are following their cattle with chickens in the grazing rotation to pick through cow patties to reduce fly numbers.

Nutrition

Research has shown that animals deficient in certain minerals are more attractive to parasitic flies. Feed free choice minerals, especially these critical traces: Copper, Sulfur, Iodine. These should be at high levels in your mineral mix and can help offset deficiencies and make animals less palatable to blood-feeding flies. There is also some evidence that free choice apple cider vinegar provides animals some resistance to biting flies.

Active Control Options (Adult Fly Control)

Put up fly paper and fly tape in the barn, and keep it fresh. Tape and paper lose stickiness quickly due to dead flies and dust. Tape rolls make it easy to expose fresh tape.

Fly trap barrels work extremely well. A clever design by organic dairy farmer Kevin Jahnke expands and improves upon the idea behind smaller scented fly traps. Kevin takes 55-gallon plastic barrels and cuts a rectangular square in the top and glues in a clear piece of plastic or plexiglass. Around the perimeter of the barrel, about halfway up on four sides, he cuts holes and inserts plastic PVC tubing with 90 degree elbows pointing towards the bottom of the barrel. He then fills the barrel with about 8 inches of water and “scents” the trap with rotting food and manure. The flies enter the trap through the PVC tubes, smelling a nice environment to lay eggs, but instinctively fly up towards the light and cannot escape, eventually dying in the trap. These can be placed anywhere on the farm, including grazing paddocks. Learn more here: <https://eorganic.org/node/6076>

Epps Biting Fly Trap™

In a three-year study conducted by Cornell University, the Epps Biting Fly Trap™ killed an average of one pound of biting flies each day. The trap requires no electricity, chemical or messy baits—it uses just soapy water. The trap mimics the color and outline of cattle and horses, which attracts biting flies. They hit the trap and drop into the soapy water where they cannot escape. Then they drown. They can be bought online through several sources including: <https://www.arbico-organics.com/product/epps-biting-fly-trap/pest-control-horse-livestock>



The Epps Biting Fly Trap™ kills about one pound of biting flies daily.

Walk-through Fly Traps

Walk-through traps, also known as the “Bruce Trap” after the entomologist who designed it, have been around for a long time and have proven to be cheap, easy to maintain, and very effective at reducing horn and stable flies. The walk-through trap is placed in a lane that all animals must pass through on their way to and from the pasture or other communal area. Hanging strips of canvas, plastic or other flexible material brush the flies off the animal’s face and back. The trap has two layers of screening on the outside walls with small, one-way holes between them. The flies instinctively try to escape by going towards the light, and get trapped between the two layers of screening.

The trap was designed for cattle, but can be modified to accommodate smaller ruminant animals. Most animals are reluctant to pass through the trap at first, so some training will be necessary. Detailed instruction can be found through the University of Missouri: <https://extension.missouri.edu/publications/g1195>

Biological Controls

Biological controls are an important part of any integrated pest control program, and one that all organic producers should consider. A combination of good cultural controls (sanitation, traps, nutrition) and biological controls are often effective enough that additional inputs (sprays, oils, etc) are not even needed. Natural enemies of insect pests, known as biological control agents, include predators, parasites, and pathogens (fungi, bacteria, viruses). Biological controls can be purchased and applied during the season to help control parasitic flies, especially flies that breed in manure like horn and stable flies. Parasitic wasps have proven par-

CERTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE

by Jackie DeMinter, Certification Policy Manager

Origin of Livestock

On May 12, 2021, the comment period for [the proposed rule on the origin of livestock](#) was reopened with a 60 day comment period that closed July 12, 2021. MOSA submitted comments on the following topics.

1. Should the final rule prohibit the movement of transitioned cows between organic operations?

MOSA agrees with the NOP's 2015 proposed rule intent to allow for the movement and sale of organic animals, including transitioned animals, between organic dairy operations. We support allowing organic dairy operations to purchase transitioned animals for herd expansion or replacement animals. Once animals are transitioned they are organic animals for milk production though they do not qualify for organic slaughter.

2. Should the rule use the term "producer" or "operation" to describe the regulated entity?

MOSA's 2015 comments made the suggestion to allow for a "dairy operation" to transition animals one time. A dairy operation would be defined as: An operation, with distinct physical premises locations identified, that is certified or is applying for certification of organic livestock and production of organic milk or milk products. The initial organic system plan must identify all premises locations included in the dairy operation.

3. Is an additional implementation timeframe necessary for organic dairies to comply?

MOSA supports an immediate implementation period. Transitions currently in progress should be able to finish.

4. The accuracy of the estimates in the Regulatory Impact Analysis.

MOSA encouraged clients to comment on the accuracy of the RIA. Our comments acknowledged that the RIA focuses on bovine dairies and not sheep or goat dairies. Full impact to non-bovine dairy operations is unknown.

5. Should there be any exceptions to the one-time allowance requirement?

MOSA supports using variances for any exceptions that may be needed. Temporary variances are covered in NOS §205.290. Variances can be granted for a number of reasons, including damage caused by drought, wind, flood, excessive moisture, hail, tornado, earthquake, fire, or other business interruption. Scenarios we encounter could be considered damage that causes a business interruption. Some situations where an additional transition or a re-transition of the existing herd may become necessary include:

1. Moving the farm to a new location which needs to transition to organic.
2. Sheep and goat herds who cannot find commercially available replacement animals.
3. Herds which have a significant loss due to sickness or disease.
4. Loss of the organic milk buyer.
5. Family illness, death or similar, which forces an operation to temporarily cease operations.

Variances are a regulated process where ultimately the NOP has the final decision making authority. Reasonable and practical decisions for additional transitions have our support, but continual transitions by the same operation does not. We do not think that there should be any scenarios enabling an operation to continually transition nonorganic animals to organic dairy production.

Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices

We were happy to see a statement from Agriculture Secretary, Tom Vilsack, on the Organic Livestock & Poultry Practices (OLPP) final rule. The Agriculture Secretary has released the following statement in regard to the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices final rule:

"We intend to reconsider the prior Administration's interpretation that the Organic Foods Production Act does not authorize USDA to regulate the practices that were the subject of the 2017 Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) final rule. I have directed the National Organic Program to begin a rulemaking to address this statutory interpretation and to include a proposal to disallow the use of porches as outdoor space in organic production over time and on other topics that were the subject of the OLPP final rule. We anticipate sending the proposed rule to OMB within six to nine months from the date of the remand. We look forward to receiving public comments on those topics and, after reviewing the comments, USDA will publish a final rule."

MOSA has implemented many of the policies required in the withdrawn OLPP final rule. We do not allow porches as outdoor access, and our space requirements and other policies align with the [Accredited Certifiers Association best practices document](#). The final regulation should require compliance by all operations, and not allow for any sort of "grandfathering" of existing operations with porches as

the only outdoor access area. We are anxiously awaiting further development on this regulation.

National List Final Rule

On June 25, 2021, [a final rule](#) amending the National List of Allowed and Prohibited substances was published. The additions to the National List are effective July 26, 2021, after which clients can use the new materials after MOSA review and approval.

This action adds:

- **Oxalic acid** to §205.603(b) as a pesticide for use in apiculture.
- **Nonorganic pullulan** to §205.605(a) for use only in tablets and capsules for dietary supplements in the “made with organic” labeling category. Natural and non gmo verification will be required.
- **Collagen gel** to §205.605(b) as a casing for use only when organic collagen gel is not commercially available. An organic search will be required. Nonorganic collagen gel produced through an enzymatic process will need to be non gmo verified. Colors and flavors added to the collagen gel must be approved.

National List Proposed Rule

A [proposed rule](#) amending the National List of Allowed and Prohibited substances was published March 25th. Comments closed May 24th, 2021 and a final rule is presumed to be forthcoming. Clients may not use materials proposed until a final rule is effective.

The rule would add:

Potassium hypochlorite to §205.601(a) for crop production along with other chlorine materials, however prohibiting use in edible sprout production.

Fatty alcohols to §205.601(k) as a plant growth regulator - specifically C6, C8, C10, and/or C12 fatty alcohols and only for sucker control in organic tobacco production. The §205.206(e) restriction applies.

And the rule would remove:

- **Dairy cultures** from §205.605(a), since microorganisms are listed and include dairy cultures. No changes would be necessary.

As a reminder, the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances identifies the synthetic substances that can be used, and the natural substances that may not be used, and a limited number of synthetic, natural, and nonorganic substances that can be used in or on processed products. Many materials have additional annotations which must be met in order to use the substance. Changes to the National List are initiated through petitions to remove or add a substance or through the NOSB's sunset review process which occurs on a five year schedule for each listed material.

Natural Flavors Documentation updates

MOSA has updated our policies and documents for client use in order to fully implement the final rule on natural flavors. As a reminder, the final rule updated the annotation for flavors on 205.605(a) to require that organic flavors be used when commercially available.

Flavors—nonsynthetic 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.

In order to verify that manufacturers are complying with the new organic flavor search requirements, MOSA developed new forms for manufacturers to use. MOSA clients using natural flavors as ingredients in organic products or those manufacturing organic flavors will need to be prepared to complete new paperwork during annual review.

1. **Natural Flavor Declaration** - We updated the Natural Flavor Declaration with new requirements for ingredient verification, such as additional information on carriers, preservatives, and extraction solvents.
2. **Organic Flavor Search-Handler** - This is a new form to document the organic flavor search. This new form has the same intent as other MOSA organic search forms, but is specific to flavors. This form is available in multiple formats for your use.
3. **Organic Flavor Commercial Availability Plan** - This is a new form for the certified operator using

ticularly effective and work by killing the larvae and pupae in the manure.

Several tiny, parasitic wasps attack immature stages of flies. The wasps insert their eggs into the immature stages of several species of flies. The wasp larvae feed inside the host and eventually kill it. The wasp completes its development, emerges as an adult and continues the process by searching out more hosts. These small wasps only attack flies, they do not sting or bite animals, or humans.

A popular choice is “Fly Eliminators” from Arbico Organics: <https://www.arbico-organics.com/category/fly-control-program> or call 1-800-827-2847. You can also buy fly parasites from companies such as Kunafin (kunafin.com), and Rincon-Vitova (rinconvitova.com).

If your cultural and biological controls don’t provide enough relief, you may need to look into repellent and insecticidal sprays. Please note, these products will be “Restricted Use” and you will need to update your Organic System Plan and Input Inventories. Always call MOSA before using a new input.

Repellent Sprays

Aromatic essential oils will repel flies (and gnats, which are also from the fly family). The challenge is to apply the oil to the top and underside of the cow with enough coverage to repel flies. It will have to be reapplied frequently. Spraying the animals right after milking in the morning is a good strategy. Some farmers keep a small pump sprayer in the parlor and give them a shot on top and underneath after milking. These oils also can be added to oilers and brushes so cattle can reapply it themselves.

Several companies make good, ready-made, essential oil repellents. Here are a few we have reviewed:

- Fly Repellent (Crystal Creek)
- Shoo-Fly Concentrate (Dr. Sarah’s Essentials)

Insecticidal Sprays and Oils

Natural pyrethrin sprays can be sprayed on animals to kill flies or on problem areas where they congregate. Be careful however, many of these sprays contain compounds like piperinyl butoxide that are prohibited for use in organic production. Pyganic™ is a favorite because the oil base gives it longer activity. Sprays for flies are considered “restricted use,” meaning that you can only use these insecticides if your other control methods have failed to give sufficient control.

Special Note

Always confirm the status of any new livestock

product with MOSA before use. Some “natural” products may contain synthetic or natural ingredients that are prohibited in organic production. Most “allowed” products are actually “Restricted Use.” So ensure that MOSA is aware of the change to your input list and to your Organic System Plan, and that you are using the product for its intended use. Follow all label instructions and consult your veterinarian when serious health problems are apparent. ■

cont. PLUGGING from pg. 5

was delayed in getting their system up and running. We still expect further information regarding the new timeline and process.

UN Food Systems Summit

Also thinking globally, our organic community is doing some critical thinking ahead of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, to be convened in September in Rome, to raise global awareness, commitments and actions that transform food systems to resolve hunger, reduce diet-related disease, and heal the planet. I found an informative overview via thenewhumanitarian.org.

The stakes are high. Over 34 million people are said to be one step away from famine, and aid organizations say “these people are not starving; they are being starved.” We hope the gathering will help the world learn how to feed itself in a more effective, equitable and environmentally sound manner. The summit will address converging pressures of food consumption and production, and climate change, against the backdrop of growing global hunger, rising food, extreme job losses, and a widening gap between needs and humanitarian funding. In April, over 250 hunger aid groups called on global leaders to “act now” and come up with \$5.5 billion in emergency food assistance funding.

There’s some resistance regarding the role of agribusiness at the summit. Some farming organizations and human rights groups, accusing others of a “corporate takeover,” are boycotting the event and planning parallel discussions. They say that if agricultural technology solutions are left unchecked, less affluent farming communities could lose control over the way food is produced, traded, and consumed – to private corporations. This could further impoverish farming families who already struggle to make a living.

But Agnes Kalibata, the summit's special envoy, denied behind the scenes agribusiness control. She told The New Humanitarian the summit is meant to build "stronger, healthier, more inclusive, nutritious, and resilient food systems" over the next decade that could change the lives of nearly 700 million people who are going hungry, and reduce food-related greenhouse gas emissions.

The summit is organized around five interconnected themes - ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all, shifting to sustainable consumption patterns, nature-positive production, equitable livelihoods, and building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress. A "food systems" approach looks at all the interlinked issues rather than just farming or trade.

Farmers and civil society organisations make up about a third of the groups leading the summit. The rest are academics, researchers, government representatives, and youth organizations.

Imagine

[One more recommended video](#) came to my attention in recent months. It's a talk from Rob Hopkins from the 2021 Oxford Real Farming Conference. Hopkins is best known as the founder of the Transition movement. He spoke on themes from his latest book on environmentalism and activism - *From What Is to What If* - and why we need to cultivate imagination alongside agricultural produce. We have allowed our collective imagination to contract at the worst time possible. Hopkins says a zero carbon future, with a sustainable, resilient agricultural system, will be achieved through creating the best conditions for the imagination and through inspiring examples. He says the next 10 years need to be many things, but they must also be, and feel like, a revolution of the imagination. Again I say, think forward.

"The future must enter into you a long time before it happens." - Rainer Mari

Organic Certification Cost Share

Help with Organic Certification Costs

The Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) is open for the 2021 program year.

Certified operations applying for organic cost share can expect 50% up to \$500 for each category or "scope" of certification (crop, livestock, wild crop, handling).

ORGANIC COST SHARE BASICS

Application Deadline

FSA deadline: November 1, 2021.

State deadlines vary.

Rebates are issued first-come, first-serve.

Who is Eligible

Actively certified organic operations who have paid organic certification fees and costs between 10/1/2020 and 9/30/2021

Eligible Costs: Certification fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments, and postage

Ineligible Costs: Equipment, materials, supplies, late fees, transitional certification inspections, and inspections necessary to address NOP regulatory violations

How to Apply

Apply through your county FSA office. To locate your FSA county office, use the link below for the FSA County Office Locator or contact MOSA.

Some states also participate in OCCSP. Currently Wisconsin, California, Ohio, and North Dakota are accepting applications. In most recent years, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania have offered the program. The list of participating states is not yet finalized. To find out if your state is participating in OCCSP, contact your state department of agriculture or visit <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/occsp/index>.

Note: FSA and state agencies may have a different application process and deadline. You may apply to either the FSA or state agency, but not both.

How does MOSA help? MOSA provides payment documentation and verifies organic certification status. We're also happy to answer your questions or concerns about the application process. When you're ready to apply, contact MOSA and request your payment documentation. MOSA does not complete, accept, or process cost share applications.

For more information or questions:

Contact your local FSA office, your state agricultural department, or Lexy Petrovits, MOSA Cost Share Coordinator, 844-637-2526 or 608-572-7276 (direct line).

Helpful Links:

USDA/FSA OCCSP Fact Sheet

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdafiles/FactSheets/organics_fsa_fact_sheet_040221_final.pdf

FSA County Office Locator

<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

MOSA's Website

<https://mosaorganic.org/education-resources/certification-cost-share>

CLASSIFIEDS

LIVESTOCK

HIGH QUALITY ORGANIC DAIRY GOATS

WANTED: High Quality Organic Dairy Goats for farmstead dairy. Need to be tested negative for Johnes. Call 608-767-3442 or email: diana@dreamfarm.biz.

FEDERALLY INSPECTED MEAT SLAUGHTER & PROCESSING FACILITY

We are your one stop shop for all of your slaughter and meat processing needs. Federally inspected. For help with your labels call Kay at 405-434-8826 or contact Elmer Beechy at N3825 C.R P, Elroy, WI 53929

CRESCENT MEATS - USDA INSPECTED - CERTIFIED ORGANIC

FAMILY OWNED for 15 YEARS
FULL SERVICE SLAUGHTER FACILITY
USDA INSPECTED - CERTIFIED ORGANIC
Cadott, WI 54727
Phone: 715.289.3000
crescentqualitymeats.com

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.

LAND/FARMS

BUSINESS FOR SALE - ORGANIC FARM PRODUCTS

Lifetime Opportunity!! Owner of a well established "Farm to Table" organic foods operation is interested in the sale of the business. The business is profitable. Includes free rent of a newly renovated, three bedroom, two bath home suitable for a family. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated an interest in organic food production, is able to deal with the public and has a successful work history. Business

is priced at \$80,000 and owner-financing is available. Call/Text Rich Grams at (608)792-3322 or email rich.grams@gmail.com
Gerrard-Hoeschler Realtors, La Crosse, WI

CERTIFIABLE GRASS PASTURE FOR RENT

Certifiable Grass Pasture. 40 acres of grass pasture available July 1 2021. 9 mi East of Viola. \$15/ head or cow calf pair/month. 608-604-6414

EQUIPMENT

KOVAR 6 ROW/15 FT TINE WEEDER

Kovar 6 row/15 ft. Tine Weeder. Used 2 seasons. \$3500. or best offer. PIC's available. Contact: Dean@DOORganics.com or 920.904.1465. South Central Wisconsin.

ROLLER CRIMPERS

Organic Roots Way is a dealer located in Camp Douglas, WI. Contact Joel @ joel@rollercrimpers.com or call 608-424-5577 for information and pricing shipped directly to your address. <https://rollercrimpers.com/>

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. 608-427-342

MISCELLANEOUS

FREE SIFTER FLOUR & GRAIN

Sunrise Flour Mill in North Branch, MN produces about 100 lbs of flour and grain that has been swept up from the floor as well as ~200 lbs of bran from the sifter of our mill per month. We are looking to close this loop. Flour is swept into the central vac system through a screen to exclude other materials from the floor, but there may be some small detritus still in flour. Bran is certified organic and food grade, no floor contact. Free upon pickup.

Contact Korbin at: korbin@sunrise-flourmill.com

FORAGES/GRAINS

21ST CUTTING HAY

2021 1st cutting. 4x5 net wrapped bales. Stored inside. No rain. Brome, Clover, Fescue, Perennial ryegrass, Orchard, and small amount of Timothy. Feed Test RFV 94. 16 bales available. \$100/bale. Mount Horeb, WI. 608-669-3229.

ORGANIC 6 ROW BARLEY

Organic 6 Row Barley. 2021 growing season. Call or email for details. 309-235-5598. twdoonan@gmail.com

ORGANIC KWS HYBRID RYE

2021 growing season crop. Call or email for details. 309-235-5598. twdoonan@gmail.com

CLOVER/GRASS HAY

2021 1st cutting. 4x5 net wrapped bales. Stored inside. No rain. Brome, Clover, Fescue, Perennial ryegrass, Orchard, and small amount of Timothy. Feed Test RFV 94. 16 bales available. \$125/bale. Mount Horeb, WI. 608-669-3229.

MOSA CERTIFIED ORGANIC ALFALFA

MOSA certified organic alfalfa available in 5' x 6' lrg rnd bales (approx. 1600lbs). First cutting of 2021 crop. We are in west central Iowa (about 250 miles SW of Viroqua). There is about 10% volunteer organic Aroostook cereal rye in the field. Asking \$175/bale. If interested, contact Billy at 515-391-0150 (txt or message) or docbill4u@yahoo.com

CERTIFIED ORGANIC GRASS AND CLOVER HAY

Will have approximately 150 round bales of certified organic grass and clover hay to sell this summer as soon as it is baled right off the field in the Green Bay area. Contact Ken Seidl 715-745-6017

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.

or intending to use non-organic nonsynthetic (natural) flavors, or by a manufacturer of flavors using flavor substances as ingredients in or on processed products labeled as “organic” to document the commercial availability standard operating procedures.

4. **Organic Flavor Commercial Availability Manufacturer Affidavit** - This form is a new optional form that can be completed by a flavor manufacturer contacted by a MOSA client during a commercial availability search as supporting documentation for the organic flavor search. It can be used as a supplement to document commercial availability, but is not to be used solely to determine commercial availability.

All new forms are available on the [MOSA website](#).

UNANNOUNCED INSPECTIONS

MOSA wants to remind our clients about how unannounced inspections work for certified organic operations. The National Organic Program requires all certifiers to conduct unannounced inspections of at least 5% of their certified operations annually. Unannounced inspections help defend the integrity and value of the organic label in the marketplace, giving consumers additional reasons to trust the organic label. They are also employed for routine and random surveillance to monitor continued compliance issues and to deter fraudulent activities.

Does MOSA have the authority to conduct unannounced inspections?

The ability of Certifiers to perform surprise inspection is provided by the National Organic Standards 205.403(a)(iii), 205.400(c) and the MOSA program manual. You agreed to this possibility when you signed the MOSA Terms and Conditions Agreement. Unannounced inspections can be on-site or conducted remotely, and the focus can vary: livestock conditions, reviewing records, conducting audits, and other aspects of organic integrity.

Who pays for the inspection?

MOSA is responsible for the costs of surveillance inspections unless, as a result of such an inspection, MOSA determines that the operation has a Noncompliance, in which case the operator is billed for the inspection costs. Refusal to participate in an unannounced inspection will result in a Notice of Noncompliance, and the client will be billed for the inspection.

If you have any questions about these types of inspections, please call Dan Marten, Inspection Manager, at the MOSA Office.



MOSA

CERTIFIED ORGANIC

122 W. Jefferson Street
P.O. Box 821
Viroqua, WI 54665
608-637-2526

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