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### FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Cori Skolaski, Executive Director*

Hope all is well with you in these late summer days. As we head into fall, MOSA's certification staff is in the thick of final reviews. Our work generally reflects the seasons of our clients, and like yours, it's a 365-day operation. For our producer and farmer clients, we are more likely to inspect operations during the growing season, while inspections for processors and handlers may occur at any time during the year as those operations are generally not as calendar-driven. And we are constantly reviewing materials for use on organic operations.

*see DIRECTOR on page 4*

# the ORGANIC Cultivator

VOL. 20 ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2022

## Welcome new Inspection staff to MOSA!

Please join us in welcoming new Inspection staff members to the MOSA team.

Mary Capehart re-joined MOSA this year as the Inspector Manager and is a member of the Certification Management Team. Mary will be overseeing inspector recruitment, process improvements and training of inspectors related to new rules and increased NOP oversight. Prior to coming to MOSA, Mary was the Certification Senior Specialist - Farm at CROPP/Organic Valley. During her time at CROPP, she worked with 30+ certification agencies to support CROPP members, helped write NOSB comments, and participated in several ACA (Accredited Certifiers Association) working groups. Mary brings hands-on farming experience from previous work as the herd manager of a bio-dynamic organic 50 cow dairy. She also worked as a Certification Specialist at MOSA for several years before joining CROPP/Organic Valley. Mary graduated from UW-River Falls, where she majored in Dairy Science and currently lives in the Driftless region with her husband, two dogs and a few cows. Outside of work you can find Mary tending to her retired cows, playing with her grandchildren, reading and keeping up on yard work. If you or someone you know is interested in finding out how to become a full or part time inspector Mary is the person to contact!



*see WELCOME on page 4*

# CERTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE

by Jackie DeMinter, Certification Policy Manager

## National Organic Program Final Rules Origin of Livestock

The highly anticipated Origin of Livestock (OOL) final rule for organic dairy has been published and was effective June 6th, 2022. This change to the USDA organic regulations will promote a fairer and more competitive market for all organic dairy producers, by making sure that certified USDA organic dairy products are produced to the same consistent standard. "This action demonstrates the USDA's strong commitment to America's organic dairy farmers," Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said. *"The Origin of Livestock final rule provides clear and uniform standards about how and when livestock may be transitioned to organic dairy production, and how transitioned animals are managed within the organic dairy system."*

MOSA is actively updating our internal policies, systems and organic plan paperwork to fully align with the new rule, which:

- Allows a dairy livestock operation transitioning to organic, or starting a new organic farm, to transition nonorganic animals one time.
- Prohibits organic dairies from sourcing any transitioned animals. Once a dairy is certified organic, new animals must be managed as organic from the last third of gestation. Variances may be requested by small businesses for specific scenarios.

Operations must be in full compliance by April 5th, 2023. Dairy operations can purchase transitioned animals until this date only. Any *additional* transitions on currently certified dairy operations must have begun before April 5, 2022 and must be complete by April 5, 2023. No additional transitions started after April 5, 2022 can be approved, except for operations not previously certified. New operations transitioning to organic can enter organic dairy two ways: by purchasing organic animals from a "last third" herd, or by transitioning nonorganic animals for one year on certified organic or third year transitional feed. Once an operation is certified organic for dairy production, all dairy animals sourced must be organic from the last third of gestation. In a few circumstances small businesses can apply for a variance from these requirements.

More detailed information about the Origin of Livestock rule is available at: [www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/national-organic-program-origin-livestock](https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/national-organic-program-origin-livestock)

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## National List Updates

Fourteen ingredients and two substances have been removed from the National List. Details can be found here: [National Organic Program; Amendments to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances \(2022 Sunset\)](#).

Two substances, Vitamin B1 (crop production §205.601) and Procaine (livestock production §205.603), must be discontinued by March 15, 2023.

The following materials have been removed from the handling National List §§205.605 and 205.606 and must be discontinued by March 15, 2024. *We encourage manufacturers using any of these ingredients to source alternatives and to communicate your plan for discontinuance to MOSA.*

- Alginic acid
- Colors (black currant juice color, blueberry juice color, carrot juice color, cherry juice color, grape juice color, paprika color, pumpkin juice color, and turmeric extract color)
- Kelp
- Konjac flour
- Sweet potato starch
- Turkish bay leaves
- Whey protein concentrate

## National Organic Program Learning Center

The National Organic Program provides a wide range of free training and outreach materials for organic farms, businesses, and organic certification agencies through their Organic Integrity Learning Center. We encourage you to explore the course offerings here: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/USDAAMSNOPCourseOfferings.pdf>.

Have you ever wondered why we verify the records we do or ask the questions we ask? One of the more recent additions - **NOP-290: Organic Dairy Compliance 2** - is geared toward certifiers and inspectors, but we encourage our dairy clients to view the course as well. The presentations in this course give insight to the verification requirements that MOSA and our inspectors are expected to follow.

Organic Dairy Compliance 2 provides an in-depth review of the pasture practice standard and grazing season and pasture management requirements. The course explains the process of conducting feed audits to verify that animals receive a minimum of 30 percent dry matter intake from grazing, on average, over the course of the grazing season. It explains producer responsibilities for managing and documenting organic dairy feed.

The course provides certifier staff and inspectors with the skills needed to assess and address non-compliances related to pasture management and feed rations. It also helps certifiers understand the knowledge inspectors need to effectively assess the compliance of a dairy operation. Throughout the course, questions, interactive scenarios, and short videos illustrate situations that inspectors may encounter at a dairy operation.

Another new course offering, **NOP-997: Microlearning: Evaluating the Grazing Season** explains how to evaluate the grazing season according to the organic regulations

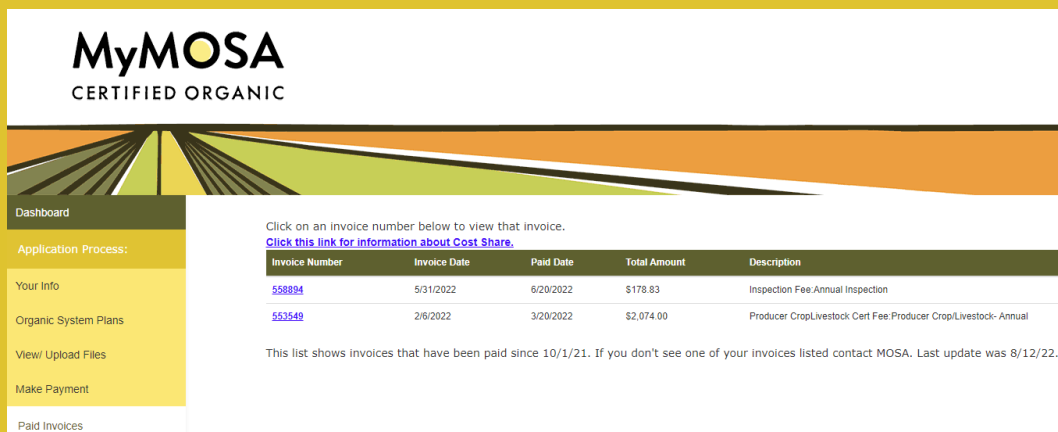
Please let us know if you have any questions about the NOP's training courses. ■

## PAID INVOICES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON MyMOSA

MOSA is pleased to announce that you may now view, download and print copies of your paid invoices directly from your MyMOSA account. Paid invoices are available going back to October 2021, the beginning of the current Certification Cost Share year.

From your MyMOSA Dashboard, simply click the new option "Paid Invoices." This will help to simplify your application process for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program.

You may also contact MOSA directly at 1-844-637-2526, or [mosa@mosaorganic.org](mailto:mosa@mosaorganic.org) for copies of your paid invoices.



**MyMOSA**  
CERTIFIED ORGANIC

Dashboard

Application Process:

- Your Info
- Organic System Plans
- View/ Upload Files
- Make Payment
- Paid Invoices

Click on an invoice number below to view that invoice.  
[Click this link for information about Cost Share.](#)

Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Paid Date	Total Amount	Description
<a href="#">558894</a>	5/31/2022	6/20/2022	\$178.83	Inspection Fee Annual Inspection
<a href="#">553549</a>	2/6/2022	3/20/2022	\$2,074.00	Producer Crop/Livestock Cert Fee/Producer Crop/Livestock- Annual

This list shows invoices that have been paid since 10/1/21. If you don't see one of your invoices listed contact MOSA. Last update was 8/12/22.



No matter the type of operation, the NOP requires that every certified operation be reviewed and inspected annually. Sometimes after an inspection, we hear from a client who is surprised about how an inspection proceeded; maybe the inspector asked questions no past inspector ever asked, or maybe it was a new request for records. That could happen for a number of reasons. The NOP may have made this mandatory, or MOSA may have directed inspectors to request particular information, or it may be that the inspector has a specific focus. Regardless, these are all dictated by the National Organic Standards. And we hear you - there's a lot to keep track of!

That's why it is so important that we all - certifiers, inspectors, organic operations, and the general public - hold up our end of the partnership with the NOP. Right now, you can submit your written feedback on the Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) proposed rule in the Federal Register. This is a 60-day comment period, so don't delay! On page 5 of this newsletter, we discuss the importance of communicating with them, especially when they ask for it!

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](mailto:cori@mosaorganic.org) or 844-637-2526. Thank you for reading, and thanks for your continued commitment to organic integrity. ■



Melissa Weyland joined MOSA earlier this summer as our Assistant Inspection Manager. Melissa oversees the day-to-day operations related to inspections at MOSA. Melissa brings over 12 years of experience in the organic food industry with her. Before joining MOSA she was the General Manager for SLO Farmers Co-op and a Regional Pool Manager for CROPP/Organic Valley. She spent the last several years helping open northeast Wisconsin's first Food Cooperative, Oshkosh Food Co-op. Melissa and her partner Roy also operate a sixty cow organic dairy in Algoma WI. Melissa serves on the WI Organic Advisory Council and is on the Grassworks Board of Directors. Contact Melissa with questions about your upcoming or recent inspection.

Adam Clopton joined MOSA last September as our Staff Inspector and has been conducting both Crop and Livestock Inspections. Adam comes from a diversified agricultural background, working in row and mixed vegetable production, feed mills and livestock management. Adam and his wife, a Certification Specialist at MOSA, managed a field to table program, growing vegetables, managing hen for eggs and an apiary for a school in Maryland before moving to WI. When Adam is not conducting inspections he enjoys hanging out with his young son in the fields and forest of his family's home in central WI.

See picture below of Adam and Ali Hudson, Auditor for USDA/NOP taken during a recent Witness Audit Inspection. ■





## Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards Proposal Rule Released

The Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) proposed rule was announced by the USDA on August 5th with a Request for Comment published in the Federal Register on August 9th. Written comments are due midnight on October 11th. MOSA will submit comments urging the USDA to standardize organic livestock and poultry regulations and implement this widely supported animal welfare reform

The proposed Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) clarifies living conditions, physical alterations, transportation and slaughter practices, and preventive healthcare practices for avian and mammalian livestock species. This proposed rule seeks to elaborate on current regulations. The original version of this rule, known as the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) was withdrawn from implementation in 2018 despite wide stakeholder support. The updated version of the proposed rule, reiterates the following:

- Clarifies enclosed “porches” do not constitute outdoor access for poultry;
- Sets maximum indoor and outdoor stocking densities to ensure poultry has sufficient space to engage in natural behavior;
- Specifies that outdoor access for poultry must include soil;
- Adds new requirements on transport of organic livestock to sale or slaughter;
- Clarifies how organic slaughter facility practices and USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) regulations work together to support animal welfare;
- Specifies which physical alteration practices are prohibited or restricted.

As you are aware, MOSA does not make the rules but we are required to ensure they are followed. When new rules are proposed MOSA’s Certification Management Team reviews the proposal asking ourselves a series of questions: How will this impact our clients? Does the rule level an otherwise unlevel playing field? Will the proposal strengthen consumer confidence and therefore increase support for organic agriculture and production? Is the implementation timeline practical?

Most of the changes this new regulation proposes to formalize were implemented through the Livestock OSP addendum and Livestock OSP updates that we put into place in 2018. While we expect there to be some impact we are hopeful that our proactive clarification of policies eases the implementation of this new rule should it become final.

The National Organic Program (NOP) is specifically requesting comments on what is an appropriate and feasible implementation timeframe for the proposed changes.

Communication to MOSA’s livestock clients, outlining the details of this new proposed rule has been sent. Please contact the MOSA office if you have questions or concerns but we also want to encourage you to write and submit your own comments. MOSA will submit comments and concerns; however, the NOP appreciates hearing from you - the ones who will be directly impacted by this new rule.

Use the following website address to access the proposed rule online: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/08/09/2022-16980/national-organic-program-nop-organic-livestock-and-poultry-standards#h-45>

All information can be found on the NOP website: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic-livestock-and-poultry-standards>. ■



## CLASSIFIEDS

### LIVESTOCK

#### SPRINGING HEIFERS

Springing Crossbred Dairy Heifers due soon. Will qualify for the grass milk program. Waukon, Iowa. Call Francis Blake 563-568-9044.

#### 100 ORGANIC HOLSTEIN COWS

20,500 lb RHA, SCC - 90,000, AI bred, aAa mating, on DHIA, freestall/parlor.

54 cows due to calve Aug - Nov. Also have bred heifers for sale. Located near Ontario, Wisconsin. 608-606-9373 or email [jjjhartman@gmail.com](mailto:jjjhartman@gmail.com).

#### REGISTERED JERSEY AND GUERNSEY HEIFERS

Grassfed herd. Mostly short bred. New London, Ohio. Contact for details: call or text 419-606-2396; or email [grimdairy@ncwcom.com](mailto:grimdairy@ncwcom.com).

#### ORGANIC DAIRY COWS

40 Holstein Cross Organic Dairy Cows. All stages and ages. Winslow, Illinois. Call Brad at 815-541-4540.

#### ORGANIC REGISTERED HOLSTEINS - DAIRY COWS AND BRED HEIFERS

70 certified organic, registered Holstein dairy cows. AI with top bulls from Select Sires. 30 certified organic, registered Holstein bred heifers bred with sexed semen. DHIA test for 37 years. Located in south central Wisconsin. Call 608-370-1480 for more information.

### LAND/FARMS

#### 100 ACRES (94 TILLABLE) ORGANIC LAND

Certified since 2016. Silt loam soil with organic matter around 3.5%. Located near Ontario, Wisconsin. 608-606-9373 or email [jjjhartman@gmail.com](mailto:jjjhartman@gmail.com).

#### LOOKING FOR DAIRY FARM TO RENT

100 acres minimum, 40 to 60 cow barn. Immediate need in Mayville Wisconsin, Dodge County. Contact Joel Gierach, email: [joelgi-](mailto:joelgi-)

[erach415@gmail.com](mailto:erach415@gmail.com), or phone: (920) 251-1402

### EQUIPMENT

#### KUHN/KRAUSE & GLENCO CULTIVATOR

6 row Kuhn/Krause heavy duty Cultivator, excellent condition and with shields, setup for 30 inch rows, \$1200 or best offer. 6 row Glenco Cultivator, 30 inch row, \$500 or best offer. Fairwater (Fond du Lac County) WI. Call or text Dean Dornfeld, DO Organics 920-904-1465.

#### ROLLER CRIMPERS & Horse / Driven Implements

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

### EMPLOYMENT

#### ORCHARD/VINEYARD PERENNIALS MANAGER

Help wanted raising cattle and row crops, with willingness to learn carpentry, mechanics, and all aspects of farming and ranching. Room and board available. Waukon, Iowa. Call or text Bob 563-568-9160.

### FORAGES/GRAINS

#### ORGANIC STRAW

MOSA certified wheat and rye straw, 4x5.5 large round bales, net wrapped. Also small square bales of wheat straw. Local delivery available. Located near Allenton, WI. Brad 262-305-7623.

#### STRAW

Large round dry straw bales. Not wrapped. 50 bales available. Waukon, Iowa. Call Francis Blake 563-568-9044.

#### ORGANIC HAY

1st cut 4x5 rounds, 100 wrapped individual. 2nd cut 3x3x7.5 dry. Orfordville, WI. Call Milton 608-921-3765.

#### 1ST CUTTING ORGANIC GRASS HAY

Timothy, Brome, Orchard grass

Mix. 30 to 35lb bales. No rain. Suitable for horses. Located about 60 miles west of Minneapolis. Call 320-327-2728.

#### ORGANIC UPLAND FINE STEMMED GRASS HAY

Big round bales. \$200 Ton. NE South Dakota. Call 507-637-3581, or cell 507-640-1573.

#### ORGANIC ALFALFA/GRASS MIX HAY

5x5 large round bales, 1200 lbs., 12% moisture, not wrapped, \$85 each. Local delivery for extra cost. Wonewoc, WI. Call Deaton Organics 608-547-5521.

### COMMERCIAL

#### PREMIER LIVESTOCK & AUCTIONS

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.

#### CRESCENT MEATS

FAMILY OWNED for 15 YEARS. FULL SERVICE SLAUGHTER FACILITY. USDA INSPECTED. CERTIFIED ORGANIC. Phone: 715.289.3000. [crescentqualitymeats.com](http://crescentqualitymeats.com)

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*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](mailto: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.*

## Get Help With Your Organic Certification Costs and Your Organic Transition

The USDA/FSA has announced the opening of both the [Organic Certification Cost Share Program \(OCCSP\)](#) and the [Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program \(OTECP\)](#). The long-standing OCCSP provides financial assistance to certified organic operations. New just last year, OTECP provides financial assistance to both certified operations and operations transitioning to organic. Both programs are federally funded.

OCCSP provides 50% up to \$500.00 to certified operations for certification costs paid for each category or “scope” of certification (scopes are crop, livestock, wild crop, handling).

OTECP provides an additional rebate for both organic certification costs and new rebates for transitional costs, educational costs, and soil testing. Here’s a summary of OTECP:

- Certified Operations: 25% up to \$250.00 for certified operations per scope.
- Transitional Operations: 75% up to \$750.00 for transitional expenses.
- Certified & Transitional Operations: 75% up to \$200.00 for education events and registration fees.
- Certified and Transitional Operations: 75% up to \$100.00 for soil testing.

If applying for both OCCSP and OTECP, a certified operation can expect 75% up to \$750.00 in a combined cost share rebate, plus potential additional rebates.

Through OTECP, a transitional operation can expect 75% up to \$750.00 for transitional expenses plus potential additional rebates.

### How to apply:

Apply through your county FSA office - [FSA County Office Locator](#). States may also offer OCCSP, but will not offer OTECP. Typically state programs open later in the season and the application process and deadlines vary. States most recently offering Cost Share have included California, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. To find out whether your state will be participating in this year’s Cost Share, contact your state department of agriculture or check the [USDA/FSA Cost Share Website](#).

USDA/FSA Cost Share Application Deadline:

OCCSP: October 31, 2022

OTECP : October 31, 2022





# MOSA

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VOL. 20 ISSUE 2 SUMMER 2022

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