

NODPA NEWS

Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance

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Organic Industry News

FOOD Farmers (Federation Of Organic Dairy Farmers) is Born in Snow, Sleet, Ice and Goodwill

By Ed Maltby

Organic dairy producers from across the country braved the season's largest winter storm to meet at the Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference on Friday, February 22nd from 2:00 to 6:00 pm.

Sponsored by NODPA and hosted by the Midwest Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (MODPA), this meeting was a culmination of the work that the three regional organizations have been engaged in for the last eighteen months: to represent the views and interests of organic dairy producers across the country. The meeting was attended by 27 organic dairy farmers representing the three regional organizations who ship milk to many different processors from Organic Choice LLC to the "big three" companies that now dominate the market, HP Hood LLC, CROPP Cooperative and Horizon Organic.

The very friendly and good natured meeting started with introductions from those in the room and on the phone, showing the diversity of size of farms and production practices. Kathie Arnold, policy chair for NODPA an New York organic dairy farmer, shared her analysis of the current situation on national pol-

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Organic Dairy Production and Policy Trends

By Kathie Arnold

Snow is falling here in LaCrosse, Wisconsin as a major winter snowstorm has paralyzed much air travel in the Midwest --including my plans to be flying home to New York today after attending the National Organic Dairy Summit and Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference. I have come to learn firsthand that the hazard of winter air travel can be a full two days delay in getting home. Ah well, it's a captive time to sit and synthesize thoughts and information to share with you.

Organic Milk Supply

The folding of Wisconsin Organics (reportedly due to a funder pulling his money out) and the subsequent release of their producers brought about a recent occurrence of excess organic milk in the Midwest. However, that seems to have been a short-lived blip as those producers have been picked up by other processors.

We await the huge flush of new organic milk coming into the market this spring on the heels of a normal spring flush. Processors say they are positioned to deal with the increase--Organic Valley will be supplying more milk to Stonyfield Farms as the increased availability of organic milk will allow them to convert lines of yogurt back from

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From The NODPA Desk

By Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director

The blast of winter weather that came through the Midwest at the end of February left some of us stranded at the MOSES conference or at one of the major airline hubs. After a hairy ride through snow and sleet with Henry Perkins (driver) and Steve Morrison (navigator), I was left stranded in Minneapolis for two days while they flew off and into Boston and then home--the luck of Maine farmers!

The work that NODPA has been doing with the two other regional organic dairy farmer organizations on national issues was formalized at an exciting and memorable meeting on February 23rd. The meeting was memorable for both the quality of the content of the discussion and the respectful interaction between each other which allowed the group to move through some potentially contentious issues and reach consensus on moving forward with some positive actions. It was a privilege to be a meeting participant and we are looking forward to many future meetings in person and on the phone as we strengthen the producer voice in deciding the future of organic dairy. The next meeting will be at the Fourth National Organic Dairy Conference in Humboldt, CA where there will be no snow, I hope.

Kathie Arnold has an excellent summary of the major points in the upcoming circus in DC that is called the Farm Bill, which more accurately should be called the Food and Farm Bill. Many of you will be involved in impacting the outcome either as part of the listening sessions or active involvement in advocacy groups or meeting with legislators or, equally important, raising the consciousness of your friends and neighbors at locally held meetings.

NODPA recognizes the importance of having a voice in DC and has joined the National Organic Coalition to have a direct influence on activities in DC, and to promote the interests of organic dairy farmers. While the Farm Bill is important, we are also preparing for the next four years of working with the different areas of government to appropriate funding for programs we have championed, as well as increasing our access to intelligence about initiatives that affect organic dairy so

NODPA recognizes the importance of having a voice in DC and has joined the National Organic Coalition to have a direct influence on activities in DC, and to promote the interests of organic dairy farmers.

we can become involved in the deliberations prior to a decision being made.

As an extension of this work and to increase communication between processors and producers, we are working with all the processors to hold an organic dairy summit, sometime in June, to work on consensus positions for the whole industry on organic standards, improve our ongoing communications and to discuss how we can promote organic dairy and our high quality products. For too long there has been inadequate communication, "secret" communications with the USDA and suspicion of each other. That does nothing for the future of our industry.

For the last few months, we have been working on the three key issues in our industry. Access to pasture is still undecided by the USDA, but there is a reason for optimism that the industry is moving towards consensus. CROPP/Organic Valley has made a minimum of 120 days grazing of nutritious pasture that will provide 30% of the required daily dry matter intake mandatory for all their producers and the other processors are moving towards that position. Similarly, the discussions about dairy herd replacements have resulted in movement towards a consensus position that will maintain

the necessary high standards that FOOD Farmers (NODPA, WODPA and MODPA) have advocated for while incorporating the concerns of some processors and producers. We will continue to provide the leadership necessary to safeguard the future of organic dairies even as the overworked USDA-NOP moves slowly despite the dynamic activity in organics in the last few years.

The NODPA Field Days and Annual meeting will continue to be in August this year as we couldn't compete with the leaf peepers in Connecticut in October. Mark your calendars for August 17th and 18th (Friday and Saturday) and we will guarantee some excellent farm tours of Rick Segalla's and Morvan Allen's dairy farms plus a consumer panel and plenty of time for NODPA business and visiting with each other.

We always welcome your comments and advice on NODPA's positions and our actions on your behalf. I have the privilege to moderate Odairy as part of my work for NODPA and I am working to improve access to the list serve, especially for those of you with slower internet connections. The quality of comment and interaction (well, most of the time) clearly shows the need for expanding this service but in a way that keeps it

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NORTHEAST ORGANIC DAIRY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

MISSION STATEMENT: To enable organic family dairy farmers, situated across an extensive area, to have informed discussion about matters critical to the well being of the organic dairy industry as a whole.

(Continued from FOOD Farmers, page 1)

icy issues and highlighted the effect that the work of the three “ODPA’s” have had on influencing how producers are viewed in Washington DC. She explained how the three groups have taken proactive leadership roles working with the organic community in developing industry wide positions on access to pasture, dairy herd replacement and cloning issues. While the USDA-NOP has been slower than promised in publishing any rule-making documents on the issue, we have been building consensus within the industry and organic community.

FOOD Farmers formed as the umbrella organization for NODPA, MODPA, & WODPA

Participants discussed the issues around access to pasture and unanimously agreed to issue a press release in support of ‘30% dry matter intake from pasture for the growing season, but no less than 120 days’, and thanking consumers for their support in the implementation of standards that maintain the high integrity of the organic seal. In loosely moderated discussions, farmers also shared their views, concerns and successes around many issues including production practices, standards issues, National Animal ID systems, supply and demand for organic milk, tracking milk in response to consumers’ demand for knowing where the milk originated, and support for a national summit of producers and processors.

The session culminated with a discussion on how the group could most efficiently continue to work together. Oren Holle, the president of Organic Farmers Agency for Relationship Marketing (OFARM), outlined the work of the organization and explained that there is existing infrastructure to assist developing national groups of organic farmers and ranchers. Pam Reisgraf explained a previous initiative that led to the establishment of the Organic Producers Association (OPA) which was legally incorporated but has not yet been developed as an organization. Following further discussion, there was consensus that the “ODPA’s” should take advantage of everyone being at the table in person, and by phone, to create a recognizable name for their informal national group. After much deliberation (some serious, some less than serious) the name “FOOD Farmers, Federation Of Organic Dairy Farmers” was chosen.

In the final act of the day, there was agreement that there should be a monthly conference call for the group; the three regional organizations would share their publications and link web pages; and that NODPA would be responsible for the limited administration necessary. In addition, four committees were formed in order to con-

centrate on the following priority areas:

1. Policy: Kathie Arnold (NODPA), Pam Riesgraf (MODPA) and Ward Burrows (WODPA)
2. Supply and Demand: Steve Morrison (NODPA); John Keifer, Ed Zimba (MODPA); Joe Doonenbael and Clark Driftmeir (WODPA)
3. OPA: Pam Riesgraf (MODPA); Tony Azevedo (WODPA); Henry Perkins (NODPA)
4. NAIS: Ed Zimba (MODPA)

More members on these committees are welcome, so any organic dairy producers interested in becoming involved in a FOOD committee, please contact Ed Maltby. The group will continue their work at the Humboldt California conference on March 14-17th 2007 and through conference calls facilitated by Ed Maltby. ♦

(Continued from Production and Policy Trends, page 1)

natural to organic; Horizon has plans to start making butter, ice cream, and dry milk powder in the East; HP Hood has new customers waiting in line that they have not been able to service yet because of inadequate supply; Organic Choice in Wisconsin recently rolled out a delicious new 5% milk fat yogurt, “Cultural Revolution”, that received rave reviews at the Upper Midwest Conference.

Standards Issues

I again have to write that the long awaited proposed pasture regulation from the National Organic Program (NOP) is still in the long awaited phase. Mark Bradley, NOP Program Manager, continues to tell people that we “will like it”. But while we wait for a proposed rule, reports keep coming in that mega dairies, such as Fair Oaks Dairy in Indiana, are converting portions of their multi-thousand cow herds to organic production. The need grows ever greater for the implementation of a pasture regulation with teeth.

Cloning recently became an issue when the FDA reported that they saw no reason not to allow milk and meat from cloned animals into the American food supply--although a public comment period is still open before FDA issues their final word on the subject. The NOP did react quickly on this front and issued a Q & A stating that cloning is prohibited under NOP regulations. However, they left open the question of whether the progeny of cloned livestock could be used in organic production and said they will work with the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to develop regulations. Cloning is on the agenda for next the NOSB meeting which will be held in Washington DC on March 27-29.

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Also, Senators Herb Kohl of Wisconsin and Patrick Leahy of Vermont have introduced legislation in the Senate to clarify that OFPA does not allow cloned animals or their progeny to be used in organic production.

Organic Feed

The advent of the month of March means that the large number of 80/20 transitioning dairy farms are in their last three months of transition so are now onto 100% organic feed. That means a big increase in demand for organic livestock feed. It is important for producers to be looking ahead on feed needs as organic grains are going to be in tight supply for the rest of this year, as well as likely beyond. With the push for corn based ethanol dramatically driving up the price of conventional corn, there will be much less economic incentive for conversion of conventional cropland to organic grain production, UNLESS, organic grain prices go up even more to make continued conversion of acreage attractive.

Either way it goes--inadequate organic grain supply or higher prices--this is a challenge to producers to look at ways to decrease the need for costly grain. We should each be looking at our operation and considering if there are opportunities to tweak our farm manage-

Either way it goes--inadequate organic grain supply or higher prices--this is a challenge to producers to look at ways to decrease the need for costly grain.

ment this year to increase the intake of high quality pasture--which is a replacement for both forage and grain--and if there are opportunities to increase the quality of our stored forages. On the pasture side, if you now do continuous grazing, you can double your production off that same acreage by going to intensive rotational grazing to allow the plants adequate rest and recovery periods. They will reward you by increased overall plant growth and a more consistent feed for the cows.

When purchasing forage seeds this year, consider choosing varieties that have been selected for especially high energy content as energy is usually the most needed element in a grass based diet. If you grow annuals, BMR varieties of sorghum and corn have more highly digestible energy than non BMR varieties. Some varieties

of forage oats are incredible powerhouses of both energy and protein. And more producers are trying open pollinated corn varieties on their farms as their nutrient content is a good step up from hybrids.

So, while we wait for the proposed pasture regulation and the arrival of spring and green grass, we need to continue to learn more, plan, and contemplate the future both on our farms and in the organic dairy industry--for they are both dynamic, ever changing organisms. ♦

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Organics and the Farm Bill

By Kathie Arnold

2007 brings about the end of the last five year Federal Government Farm Bill and the intense workings on a new one. The Farm Bill is the mechanism that sets funding for programs ranging from farm commodity, disaster and conservation payments; to food stamps and school meals; to agricultural research, rural development, and trade promotion funds and lots of programs in between. With dozen of compelling needs all looking to be funded at a time when federal government dollars for domestic programs are being squeezed ever more, it takes intense work to secure a spot on the dock for organic and sustainable ag programs.

A big boy on the dock this year is funding for bio-energy research, development, and production. For example, although about 3 percent of total U.S. food retail market is organic, the share of USDA research targeted to organic agriculture and marketing only represents about 0.6 percent annually. Organic has long lacked its fair share of funding. For example, only .4% of 2004 USDA funding for research and education went to organic specific research whereas organic is now 2.5 % of the market.

Many groups are working hard this year to secure funding to advance organic agriculture. A few of us organic dairy producers will be in Washington DC in early March to meet with senators and congressmen and women and their staff to encourage support for organic and conservation initiatives. These include the following planks in the National Campaign for Sustainable Ag Organic Committee platform:

1. Re-authorizing organic certification cost share. Since the National Organic Program will be re-accrediting certification agencies this year (at the government set rate of \$108/hour), this big bill for certifying agencies will translate to increased certification fees for farms. Thus, we are seeking increased dollars to fund certification cost share up to \$750 per farm.
2. Full funding and countrywide availability of the Conservation Security Program (CSP) instead of the current limitation to only a few select watersheds. CSP rewards farms for their on-going good conservation practices and provides incentive for farms to work up the ladder to higher levels of conservation. Efforts are underway to allow dual eligibility between organic certification and CSP in order to not add more paperwork requirements to organic producers.
3. A new NRCS program to provide technical, educational, and financial help to farmers converting to organic. This initiative would include the formation of a National Organic Technical Committee (rather analogous to the NOSB) to guide this program as well as safeguards to limit conversion funding when continued increased production would harm existing organic producers
4. An initiative to re-invigorate public plant and animal breeding. This would fund classical animal and plant breeding in areas such as developing varieties with improved nutritional and eating quality, and breeds and seeds that are a good fit for organic and sustainable systems and local adaptations.
5. Amend the Agricultural Fair Practices of 1967 to require good faith bargaining with producer associations and remove loopholes that have made the Act difficult to enforce.
6. A fair share of research funds for organic. At least a five fold increase in ARS-USDA research monies is needed to bring organic specific research up to organic's share of the US marketplace.
7. Legislation to put the liability of economic loss due to GMO contamination squarely on the manufacturer of GMO seeds instead of with farmers and processors where all costs for testing and financial loss due to GMO contamination currently rests.
8. Adjustment of Risk Management and Crop Insurance to be a better fit for organic producers by eliminating the 5% surcharge currently required of organic producers, giving crop insurance reimbursement at the price of organic crops, etc.

More detailed and complete information on these points can be found at the National Campaign for Sustainable Ag at <http://www.sustainableagriculture.net/OrganicFarmBill.php> ♦

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University of New Hampshire Celebrates Organic Dairy Farm

By Kevin Brussell

On January 8, 2007 the University of New Hampshire (UNH), celebrated a unique event in the organic world: becoming the first U.S. land-grant university to develop a certified organic dairy research farm. Funders, faculty, and farmers gathered at the Burley-Demerritt to celebrate the momentous occasion.

University President J. Bonnie Newman welcomed the crowd stating, "As we celebrate the Organic Dairy today it is clear that the land grant mission is alive and well at UNH. We have made a commitment to the organic dairy community, including first and foremost, farmers, but also producers, retailers and citizens. Our commitment will help fill the void in urgently needed science-based research on organic production." She also noted, "The success that we celebrate today that is so important to all of us was achieved and will be sustained by vital public/private partnerships. I want to thank all of you who have supported the Organic Dairy Research Farm, particularly, our donors including Stoneyfield Farm, Horizon Organic, Aurora Organic Dairy, Hannaford Brothers Supermarkets, Organic Valley, the Newman's Own Foundation, HP Hood, the American Jersey Cattle Association, the Maine Organic Milk Producers and a host of other individuals and organizations who have made this initiative possible."

Gary Hirshberg, CEO of Stoneyfield based



UNH Organic Jerseys

in Londonderry, New Hampshire, Kelly Shea, Vice-President of Organic Stewardship, Horizon Organic, Marc Peperzak, CEO of Aurora Organic Dairy, and Ed Maltby, Executive Director of the Northeast Organic

Dairy Producers Alliance each spoke to the gathering regarding the importance of this research farm to the organic dairy community. Several important milestones were noted. The university raised \$1.2 million in donations to fund the innovative project. A new commodities storage building has been completed. The existing sheep barn was renovated into a four-stall step-up milking parlor with maternity pens. The existing bull barn has been renovated into a calf nursery and the existing beef barn

now houses the milking cows.

Following the formal presentations, the guests toured the calf nursery and the brand-new milking parlor and maternity barn, and finished the afternoon at the President's House where they gathered for a reception that featured organic milk and cookies as well as champagne.

On January 15, 2007 Organic Valley picked up the first shipment of organic milk. Renovating the sheep barn into a four-stall step-up milking parlor and maternity barn took longer than planned but the end result was well worth the wait. Everyone is pleased with the flow of the parlor and the convenience of the maternity area.

Forty first-calf heifers now milking are averaging 47 pounds of milk per head per day. Six heifers are still left to calve as 2 of the original



UNH Milking Parlor

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(Continued from UNH Dairy Farm, page 8)

48 never settled. Despite the wet, cold weather no major health problems have surfaced other than a few cases of mastitis. We are currently using sawdust for the bedded pack.

The winter feeding trials for the USDA research grant with the University of Maine are beginning, which compare four different diets: two with home grown forages including corn silage; one uses cornmeal and the other a typical grist purchased from a feed mill. The other two diets are made up of homegrown forages with no corn silage; one diet consisting of cornmeal and one with a typical grist purchased from a feed mill. Due to the very wet growing season last year no small grain baleage was produced and the corn silage was of poor quality. As part of the farming research commitment, we will continue to produce and compare the quality and yield of small grain baleage, corn silage, sorghum baleage, and grass-legume mixtures to see which ones produce the most net profit for the farm system. We also plan to produce small grains to compare their role in the diet relative to corn.

The planning of laneway construction for the available pastures this coming season is underway. Last year we discovered raised laneways were necessary so the cattle could get to higher paddocks during wet spells. A new cattle lane is being cut through the woods from the Burley-Demerritt farm to the Bartlett-Dudley farm to access more pasture. We also plan to explore ways to extend our grazing season on both ends, spring and fall.

ARS researchers associated with U-Maine and Pennsylvania have started mapping the fields, testing soil, and identifying pasture grasses and forbs. Dot Perkins, UNH Cooperative Extension, is assisting with this part of the research. She has begun identifying herbs already growing in the pastures and hedgerows and plans to research the potential benefits of cattle self-medication using pasture species. UNH will be collaborating with them on additional projects as the farm research agenda develops.

We at UNH are excited to have the opportunity to do research that is relevant to the organic community and look forward to you as NODPA farmers participating in our research and production agenda. ♦



UNH Calf Hotel



UNH Facility



UNH Jerseys Eating at Bunk

Can You Clone an Organic Cow?

By Jim Riddle

On December 28, 2006, the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) at the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued a Draft Risk Assessment on meat and milk from cloned animals.

The FDA concluded that animal cloning, or somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), “results in an increased frequency of health risks to animals involved in the cloning process.” The CVM found that, “surrogate dams are at risk of complications from birth” and “the frequency of live normal births appears to be low, although the situation appears to be improving as the technology matures.”

Despite the documented negative impacts on animal health, the CVM concluded that, “extensive evaluation of the available data has not identified any food consumption risks or subtle hazards in healthy clones of cattle, swine, or goats. Thus, edible products from healthy clones that meet existing requirements for meat and milk in commerce pose no increased food consumption risk(s) relative to comparable products from sexually-derived animals.”

In sum, the CVM concluded that meat and milk from healthy cloned animals are “virtually indistinguishable”

from meat and milk from non-cloned animals with no “biologically significant” differences in composition.

Impacts on Organic Agriculture

According to the FDA report, one of the initial technical steps in animal cloning is cell fusion. DNA is transferred from one cell to another. As such, the practice is prohibited in organic production under the National Organic Program (NOP) regulation as an “excluded method.”

Excluded methods, which are not allowed in organic production or processing, are defined as, “a variety of methods used to genetically modify organisms or influence their growth and development by means that are not possible under natural conditions or processes and are not considered compatible with organic production. Such methods include cell fusion...”

Animal cloning is not allowed for organic production under the NOP for several reasons. Since cloning relies on cell fusion, it is explicitly prohibited in organic production. Clearly, it is not possible under natural conditions. It is not considered compatible with organic production, since cloning narrows the gene base, while organic production relies on maintenance of a broad and diverse gene pool.

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(Continued from Cloned Animals and Organics, page 10)

In addition, cloning is dependent on the use of artificial hormones to induce labor of surrogate dams. The use of artificial hormones to induce labor is prohibited in organic agriculture.

Animal Husbandry Issues

During cloning, an animal’s DNA is inserted into an egg, where the DNA has been removed. The resulting embryo is implanted into a surrogate mother, where it forms a genetically identical copy of the original animal.

But even if two animals have identical genes, they can turn out differently if those genes are turned on or off at different times, or are sequenced differently from the original sequence. These unpredictable genetic variations are linked to the high failure rate of cloned animals. Many clones die during gestation or shortly after birth, while some are born with deformed heads or limbs or problems with their hearts, lungs or other organs.

In its report, the FDA admits animal health problems, by stating that “some animals involved in the cloning process (*i.e.*, cattle and sheep surrogate dams, and some clones) are at increased risk of adverse health outcomes relative to conventional animals.” “Cows and ewes used as surrogate dams for SCNT-derived pregnancies appear to be at increased risk of late gestational complications.” “There is an increased risk of mortality and morbidity in perinatal calf and lamb clones.”

The NOP regulation requires organic livestock producers to establish and maintain preventative livestock health care practices and accommodate the health and natural behavior of the animals. Breeding practices, such as cloning, that result in “adverse health outcomes,” “increased risks of late gestation complications,” and “increased risks of mortality and morbidity” do not meet the NOP’s proactive health care requirements.

Unlabeled Clones and the Organic Market

While the CVM report concludes that livestock products from healthy clones are likely to be safe for human consumption, the FDA has not ruled on whether or not cloned animals and their products will need to be tracked and labeled.

At a minimum, there should be mandatory tracking and labeling of cloned animals and animal products as:

- The best way to prevent entry of cloned animals and their products into the organic food system;
- The only way to conduct long-term epidemiological studies;
- The only way determine with any level of certainty

the effects on human health;

- The best way to protect consumer confidence in the food system;
- The only way to protect consumers’ rights to know about the foods they consume; and
- The best way to protect the interests of conventional livestock producers, who are likely to suffer negative economic impacts from un-segregated products, similar to what has happened with losses related to un-segregated GMO rice.

Introduction of Experimental Technology

While cloning may prove to be a benign technology in the long run, there is no shortage of highly productive breeds and lines of livestock. There is no shortage of meat or milk in the U.S. In fact, meat and milk markets are often depressed due to over-production.

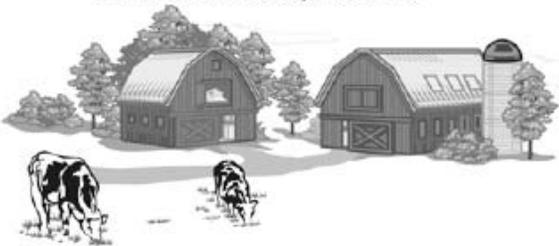
This experimental technology introduces an inherent, and often overlooked, danger – narrowing of the gene base. Biologically speaking, a species’ survival is directly linked to genetic diversity. With a broad and deep gene pool, a species, whether wild or domesticated, is better positioned to adapt to new disease threats and environmental changes. For instance, a species with a

(Continued on page 12)

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(Continued from Cloned Animals and Organics, page 11)

narrow gene pool can collapse when animals encounter unanticipated diseases.

The FDA report states, “The Center assumes that if clones were to pose food consumption risks, the only mechanism by which those risks could arise would be from inappropriate epigenetic reprogramming...” Despite the fact that many cloned animals die during gestation or develop abnormally due to a misarranged genetic code, the FDA assumes that only those animals which appear to be healthy and normal would enter the human food chain, since they are “virtually indistinguishable.”

The report goes on to state that animal clones can develop with apparently normal functions, but with *subtle* sub-clinical physiological anomalies. “These could include alterations in key proteins affecting the nutritional content of food and leading to dietary imbalances.” Because these animals appear to be normal, their products would find their way into the human food supply. Tracking of cloned animals is imperative for products from animals with sub-clinical anomalies to be identified and studied.

The concept of cloned animals and their products being “virtually indistinguishable,” is similar the doctrine of “substantial equivalence,” used earlier by the FDA to justify the untracked and unlabeled introduction of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). It is

not a scientific standard. It is not even a rational standard, since the products of these technologies are proprietary for the profit of their developers. It is an economic and political conclusion weighted to the benefit of the technology companies and based on a favorable, but flawed assumption – the similarity of appearance.

Who Gains from Unregulated Cloning?

In the short-term, the presence of unregulated and unlabeled meat and milk from cloned animals will help further differentiate organic products from un-segregated conventional livestock products. This will likely result in more consumers purchasing organic products.

Corporations who control the technology and proprietary strains of cloned animals will profit through increased dependence of farmers on proprietary sources of genetic material.

The absence of tracking or labeling protects technology companies and users of cloned animals from liability. Without traceability, the determination of harm, should harm occur, is virtually impossible.

The Draft Risk Assessment does not address the potential economic effects of allowing the unregulated use of animal cloning without traceability or labeling. No other country has approved food from cloned animals. Unlabeled introduction of cloning has the potential to seriously diminish consumer confidence, further de-

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from Cloned Animals and Organics, page 12)

pressing domestic and export markets for conventional livestock products.

A December 2006 poll by the Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology found that 64 percent of consumers said they were uncomfortable with animal cloning, with 46 percent saying they were “strongly uncomfortable.” Likewise, an online poll conducted by the Minneapolis Star Tribune immediately after FDA’s announcement found that 60% of respondents said that they would not eat food products from cloned animals.

Prior to full approval, a comprehensive economic impact analysis must be conducted to examine the technology’s impacts on existing markets for conventional and organic livestock products. ♦

¹Available at: <http://www.fda.gov/cvm/CloneRiskAssessment.htm>

²7 CFR 205.2 Terms defined. USDA National Organic Program Final Rule, October, 2000.

³New York Times, December 29, 2006, “F.D.A. Tentatively Declares Food From Cloned Animals to Be Safe” By Andrew Pollack and Andrew Martin.

⁴<http://www.fda.gov/cvm/CloneRiskAssessment.htm>

⁵<http://www.fda.gov/cvm/CloneRiskAssessment.htm>

⁶<http://www.fda.gov/cvm/CloneRiskAssessment.htm>

Jim is the Organic Outreach Coordinator for the University of Minnesota. Jim was founding chair of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA), co-author of the IFOAM/IOIA International Inspection Manual and former chair of the USDA's National Organic Standards Board.



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Tell FDA: No Food From Cloned Animals!

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has completed its review of food from animal clones and FDA regulators say that the agency will likely approve the sale of cloned foods this year. FDA’s action flies in the face of widespread scientific concern about the risks of food from clones, and ignores the animal cruelty and troubling ethical concerns that the cloning process bring. What’s worse, FDA indicates that it will not require labeling on cloned food, so consumers will have no way to avoid these experimental foods. FDA needs to hear that you don't want food from animal clones - a public comment period is open until April 2!

Send your comment to FDA TODAY!

Take action online at <http://ga3.org/campaign/Cloning>

For more information, visit the Center for Food Safety website at <http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org>

Sample Letter to FDA:

Submit your letter electronically at <http://ga3.org/campaign/Cloning>

or through the FDA comment site at FDA link:
http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/oc/dockets/comments/getDocketInfo.cfm?EC_DOCUMENT_ID=1369&SORT=START&MAXROWS=15&START=151&CID=&AGENCY=FDA

Address your letters to:

FDA Commissioner Andrew von Eschenbach
 Docket # 2003N-0573

Mail your letters to:

Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305)
 Food and Drug Administration
 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm 1061
 Rockville, MD 20852

Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative Outstanding Milk Quality Awards

Organic Valley /CROPP Cooperative, the nation's largest and oldest organic farmers cooperative, saluted more than 245 of its farmer-owners for outstanding milk quality in 2006. Farmers are recognized in three different categories: Gold, Silver and Milk Quality Recognition.

To achieve these honors, Gold Award recipients needed an average Somatic Cell Count (SCC) of less than 150; Silver Award recipients an average SCC between 151 and 200; and Milk Quality Recognition recipients an average SCC between 201 and 250. In addition, all levels had to achieve a Standard Plate Count average below 25 and a Preliminary Incubation count averaging less than 30.

"We often hear from our customers how much they love the taste of Organic Valley milk," said George Siemon, CEO and founding farmer for Organic Valley/CROPP. "The delicious flavor and overall outstanding quality of our organic milk is the result of the meticulous care and pride with which Organic Valley farmers produce their product. We're pleased to honor our most dedicated farmers who consistently produced the best organic milk possible last year."

North Hardwick Dairy LLC (Meyer family) in Vermont was the Eastern Top Quality Gold winner, for the third year in a row. Organic Valley / CROPP Cooperative is proud to recognize their dedication to organics and salutes their family for continually striving for improvement.

CROPP Cooperative Welcomes Jake Schmitz as new South Region Pool Coordinator

CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley is very pleased to announce the addition of a new South Region Pool Coordinator. Jake Schmitz will be responsible for member support and new member recruitment in Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, North Carolina, Texas, Arkansas and the rest of the SE region of the United States.

Jake's most recent job was as the Organic Program Coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. In that position, Jake was responsible for education and outreach, and the KY organic certification program. Jake's first task at the Department of Ag was to write the application for accreditation. After the KY Dept. of Ag was accredited by the USDA, Jake himself did most of the farm inspections, application reviews and certification recommendations. It was Jake that worked with CROPP to certify the state's first organic dairy farms. ♦

Dairylea, DFA Producers Transitioning To Organic Offered \$18 Blend Price Stabilizer

By Tracy Trudell

Risk Management Services (RMS), a subsidiary business of Dairylea Cooperative, is offering a Blend Price Stabilizer to Dairylea and DFA members transitioning to organic, to help offset higher input costs during this time of low milk prices. The Blend Price Stabilizer term is 18 months and will pay a steady \$18.00/cwt during the producers' last 12 months of the transition period. Once the conversion to organic is complete, the blend price increases to \$22/cwt until any balance is settled.

RMS has programs that assist cooperative members in managing a milk price margin that exceeds their anticipated production costs, regardless of low or high milk prices. "We have been offering a stabilizer program to our conventional producers for years, as well as a number of other member services," said Katie Rossini, director of RMS. "We've helped many farms stabilize their income."

Transitioning from conventional farming to organic is up to a three year process and can be very costly, according to Rossini. "It only makes sense that RMS develop a program for transitioning producers, that helps match the higher cost of production with a supplemented income for the last year of transition. All in all, it helps ease our producers' financial burdens."

RMS offers an array of milk price management tools including: milk price forward contracts - allowing members to lock in a fixed price for a portion of their milk for any number of upcoming months; upside riders - an insurance product used with fixed price forward contracts to protect against prices rising significantly above the contract price; floor contracts - enabling members to put a floor under their milk price; fence contracts - minimizing the effects of the lows and highs of milk price volatility for a low cost; and milk price stabilizers - eliminating volatility in blend prices or the Producer Price Differential (PPD) from month to month.

Rossini is available to members for a free, no obligation consultation and introduction to all RMS programs. She can be reached at 1-800-654-8838, ext. 5581. If you're a member who is interested in converting to organic production, call Dave Eyster at 1-888-589-6455, ext. 5409.

Dairylea Cooperative Inc. is a farmer-owned agricultural marketing and service organization with more than 2,400 member farms located throughout the Northeast. ♦

Feds Dole Out \$143,500 to Organic Trade Association Funds to Help Promote U.S. Organic Food Overseas

The Organic Trade Association (OTA) Wednesday was awarded \$143,500 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help market organic products overseas.

The money is part of the agency's fiscal year 2007 allocations of \$100 million to 67 U.S. trade organizations helping promote U.S. agricultural products overseas. OTA's allocation was less than the funding received by 54 other trade organizations.

"We would like to have more available, but we certainly appreciate the funding," Holly Givens, OTA's public affairs advisor, told **Sustainable Food News**. "It will help market products."

USDA spokesperson John Rice did not immediately return a call for comment.

The funds help OTA conduct buyer-seller meetings at

exhibitor pavilions during select trade shows such as the All Things Organic Conference and Trade Show in held in Chicago in May, and others in Taiwan and South Korea, Givens said.

The funds also help to maintain OTA's fully searchable, multi-language export directory and multi-language literature about U.S. organic standards including brochures.

Other projects promoting U.S. organic food products include Canadian advertising campaigns in Toronto and Vancouver, and in-depth market studies on foreign markets.

In November, USDA allocated over \$300,000 in funding to OTA to promote U.S. organic agricultural products overseas.

More Organic Milk Sought in Northeast

The purpose of the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance is to enable organic dairy family farms, situated across an extensive area, to maintain the sustainability of organic dairy farming in the Northeast Region.

HP Hood is starting new organic milk routes in a number of Northern Tier States (ME, NH, VT, NY, PA, OH, MI, WI, MN, IA) and would like to hear from you. Our support of sustainable agriculture, a signing bonus and transition assistance have helped many already. Call Karen Cole, HP Hood Milk Procurement, karen.cole@dairymarketingservices.com or at 1-866-383-1026.

CROPP Cooperative-Organic Valley Family of Farms, a national farmer owned organic marketing cooperative is looking for organic dairies, both established and transitional organic dairy producers, in New York, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and all of the New England States. Competitive Organic Milk Pay Price once certified organic and complete year of Transitional Funding for new farmers during herd's transitional year. In New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia contact Peter Miller, Northeast Region Dairy Pool Coordinator, at (888) 444-6455, x3407 to leave a voice message, or mobile at (612) 801-3506, peter.miller@organicvalley.coop. In New England States contact John Clearly, New England Dairy Pool Coordinator, at (888)-444-6544 x3330 to leave voice mail, or mobile at (612)-803-9087, or john.clearly@organcivalley.coop

Upstate Niagara Cooperative, a dairy farmer owned, full service cooperative headquartered in Buffalo, NY is continuing to grow its supply of organic milk. The members of Upstate Niagara Coop own and operate 4 milk plants in Buffalo, Niagara Falls and Rochester. Our members are interested in producing organic milk and processing organic dairy prod-

ucts. We currently process & package fresh, not ultra-pasteurized organic milk in our Rochester Milk Plant. If you are interested in learning more about Upstate Niagara Coop, visit our website www.upstatefarms.com, give me a call or email me. Bill Young 800-724-6455 x 6225 or byoung@upstatefarms.com.

LOFCO continues to look for milk in PA/MD, particularly southeast PA. The market is strong. Please contact Levi Miller at 717/661-8682 or Jerry McCleary at 717/577-8809.

Dairy Marketing Services (DMS) is looking for organic milk for its customers - H.P.Hood and Horizon Foods - at very competitive prices. We also have very attractive packages available for farms transitioning into organic dairy farming. Please contact Dave Eyster at 1-888-589-6455 extension 5409.

Horizon Organic continues to grow its producer partner network in the East and Midwest. Horizon Organic offers competitive pay, transitional funds during the 12 months transition of the herd and long-term contracts. Producers in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Michigan, Virginia and Kentucky contact Cindy Masterman 888-648-8377; New York, Maryland, Ohio and Pennsylvania contact Peter Slaunwhite 800-381-0980; Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana contact Mike Bandstra 877-620-8259.

United Ag Services in Seneca Falls, NY is looking for organic milk in NY and northern PA. Please contact Jim Patsos at 315-568-2750 or 800-326-4251.

Any buyers looking for organic milk who would like to be listed in this column for the May 2007 issue, please email the desired text to Ed at ednodpa@comcast.net or call 413-772-0444 by April 5th 2007.

Federal Court Finds USDA Erred In Approving Genetically Engineered Alfalfa Without Full Environmental Review Precedent-Setting Decision May Block Planting, Sales of Monsanto Alfalfa

In a decision handed down yesterday, a Federal Court has ruled, for the first time ever, that the U.S. Department of Agriculture failed to abide by federal environmental laws when it approved a genetically engineered crop without conducting a full Environment Impact Statement (EIS).

In what will likely be a precedent-setting ruling, U.S. District Court Judge Charles R. Breyer of the Northern District of California decided in favor of farmers, consumers, and environmentalists who filed a suit calling the USDA's approval of genetically engineered (GE) alfalfa a threat to farmers' livelihoods and a risk to the environment. Judge Breyer ordered that a full Environmental Impact Statement must be carried out on "Roundup Ready" alfalfa, the GE variety developed by Monsanto and Forage Genetics. The decision may pre-

vent this season's sales and planting of Monsanto's GE alfalfa and future submissions of other GE crops for commercial deregulation.

Judge Breyer concluded that the lawsuit, brought last year by a coalition of groups led by the Center for Food Safety, raised valid concerns about environmental im-



pacts that the USDA failed to address before approving the commercialization and release of Roundup Ready alfalfa.

In his ruling, the judge consistently found USDA's arguments unconvincing, without scientific ba-

sis, and/or contrary to the law. For example:

- The judge found that plaintiffs' concerns that Roundup Ready alfalfa will contaminate natural and organic alfalfa are valid, stating that USDA's opposing arguments were "not convincing" and do not demonstrate the "hard look" required by federal environmental laws. The ruling went on to note that "&For those farmers who choose to grow non-genetically engineered alfalfa, the possibility that their crops will be infected with the engineered gene is tantamount to the elimination of all alfalfa; they cannot grow their chosen crop."
- USDA argued that, based on a legal technicality, the agency did not have to address the economic risks to organic and conventional growers whose alfalfa crop could be contaminated by Monsanto's GE variety. But the judge found that USDA "overstates the law. Economic effects are relevant when they are 'interrelated' with 'natural or physical environmental effects.' Here, the economic effects on the organic and conventional farmers of the government's deregulation decision are interrelated with, and, indeed, a direct result of, the effect on the physical environment."
- Judge Breyer found that USDA failed to address the problem of Roundup-resistant "superweeds" that could follow commercial planting of GE alfalfa. Commenting on the agency's refusal to assess this risk, the judge noted that "Nothing in NEPA, the relevant regulations, or the caselaw support such a cavalier response."

"This is a major victory for farmers and the environment," said Andrew Kimbrell, Executive Director of the Center for Food Safety. "Not only has a Federal Court

(Continued on page 17)

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(Continued from GMO Alfalfa, page 16)

recognized that USDA failed to consider the environmental and economic threats posed by GE alfalfa, but it has also questioned whether any agency in the federal government is looking at the cumulative impacts of GE crop approvals."

"This is another nail in the coffin for USDA's hands-off approach to regulations on these risky engineered crops," said Will Rostov, Senior Attorney of The Center for Food Safety, which just last week won another judgment calling for USDA to provide more environmental documentation for any new GE field trials.

"This ruling will help protect my rights as a consumer to choose, and I choose organic foods whenever and wherever I can," said Dean Hulse, Fargo, ND-based spokesperson for Dakota Resource Council and the Western Organization of Resource Councils. "The decision rejects Monsanto's claims that transgenic crops are safe for the environment. Many people have been skeptical of those claims, and now we have a judge who's skeptical as well - a judge who has actually stud-

ied the facts."

The suit also cited the urgent concerns of farmers who sell to export markets. Japan and South Korea, America's most important alfalfa customers, have warned that they will discontinue imports of U.S. alfalfa if a GE variety is grown in this country. U.S. alfalfa exports total nearly \$480 million per year, with about 75% headed to Japan. The Court disagreed with USDA's assertion that exports to Japan would not be harmed by deregulation of GE alfalfa.

"The decision rejects Monsanto's claims that transgenic crops are safe for the environment. Many people have been skeptical of those claims, and now we have a judge who's skeptical as well - a judge who has actually studied the facts." - Dean Hulse

"Today's ruling reinforces what Sierra Club has been saying all along: the government should look before it leaps and examine how genetically engineered alfalfa could harm the environment before approving its widespread use," said Neil Carman of the Sierra Club's genetic engineering committee. "That's just plain common sense."

Alfalfa is grown on over 21 million acres, and is worth \$8 billion per year (not including the value of

(Continued on page 18)



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(Continued from GMO Alfalfa, page 17)

final products, such as dairy), making it the country's third most valuable and fourth most widely grown crop. Alfalfa is primarily used in feed for dairy cows and beef cattle, and it also greatly contributes to pork, lamb, sheep, and honey production. Consumers also eat alfalfa as sprouts in salads and other foods.

"We applaud the decision of the Court," said Bill Wenzel of the National Family Farm Coalition. "It's unfortunate that we have to turn to judges to do what's right for farmers while the USDA carries water for the biotech companies."

Pat Trask of Trask Family Seeds, a South Dakota conventional alfalfa grower and plaintiff in the case stated: "It's a great day for God's own alfalfa."

The Center for Food Safety represented itself and the following co-plaintiffs in the suit: Western Organization of Resource Councils, National Family Farm Coalition, Sierra Club, Beyond Pesticides, Cornucopia Institute, Dakota Resource Council, Trask Family Seeds, and Geertson Seed Farms. ♦

(Continued from The NODPA Desk, page 3)

accessible to all, especially those of us who were not born with an Ipod in our ear. I am also looking at better ways to collate the archives to provide valuable information to all.

Annie Claghorn has resigned her position as the representative for Vermont for personal reasons and we thank her for her many hours of service to NODPA and wish her good health for the future. Her resignation means we are looking for another rep for Vermont to partner with Beverly Rutter so please let me know if you have any interest in becoming a more active and participatory member of NODPA.

Spring is definitely on its way and by the time you receive this newsletter there will be, hopefully, more green than white on the ground. The future is bright for organic dairy if we can work together as one community of farmers, processors and regulators to provide a high quality product to an ever expanding market. This is our work for the next few months as we negotiate a whole new scenario of a flush of milk that will challenge the infrastructure that processors have set up and an unprecedented increase in producers who are learning a whole new way of farming. ♦



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Organic Production

Feature Farm

Green Pastures Farm Arden and Caroline Landis Kirkwood, PA

by Lisa McCrory

Arden and Caroline have been dairy farming since 1988; they started their career in dairy as conventional producers with a high producing herd. Over time they incorporated pasture into their feeding and management and in 1995 they moved to their farm in Kirkwood, PA and started their transition to organic production. The land needed a 3-year transition; meanwhile, their grazing system intensified each year, and by 1999 their farm was certified organic and shipping to Horizon Organic. The transition to organic was not difficult since Arden and Caroline were already grazing their cows and their preventative health program was very much in line with the organic standards.

In 2000 they constructed a Swing-16 Dairy Master milking parlor and started moving the herd to a spring seasonal production. They didn't milk any cows during the winter of 2004/2005, but now milk up to 32 cows in the winter and 95-110 cows from March - December. Per cow production average is 12,300 per cow and breeds include New Zealand Friesian Holsteins, Jersey crosses, Brown Swiss crosses and Jerseys. They start their breeding program in late May using A.I. for the first 3 weeks followed by natural service Jersey bulls who remain with the herd until the end of the year. Any cow that is bred is worth more to Arden. If she no longer fits into his window for production and calving, there is still a market for the cow.

Arden and Caroline rent their farm, which consists of 120 acres. Of that, 115 is fenced in and managed primarily as a rotational grazing system. There is an additional 96 acres rented a distance from the farm, which is used for growing their forages. They believe in having a small staff on their farm; Arden is the only full-time employee, Caroline works part-time, tending to the

calves, milking the cows and being the all-around helper as needed and their daughter Debbie helps out with calves and various other farm chores. Most of the cropping needs are hired out to custom operations and a lot of the tractor work (such as clipping pastures) is done by seasonal part-time labor.

Housing

When asked how he houses his animals, Arden proudly states that his farm has 'Tree-Stalls' for his cows meaning they keep their cows outside year-round and provide some forested pieces of land for limited shelter and protection from the wind. Cows that are close to calving are provided additional shelter during inclement weather and the lactating cows are provided bedding to provide some additional comfort for their out-door lifestyle.



Caroline and Arden Landis

Arden's cows are healthier than they have ever been with this system; "Our cull rate is so low it is hard to maintain herd size", says Arden, "it wants to keep growing." Each year they raise 40 heifers to make sure they have enough animals calving within their seasonal production window. Last year they sold 30 cows of which 28 went to the dairy market and the remaining 2 went for beef. Of the cows that Arden sells for dairy, only the cream of the crop goes to the organic dairy market. The rest of the dairy cows go to the auction where you buy at your own risk.

Feeding System

A typical summer ration consists of 8-10 lbs of a 10% grain (corn and oats), some dry hay available at the feed bunk and pasture. The winter feed ration is 8-10 lbs of grain (corn and oats), dry hay and milk-cow-quality baleage. A mineral package, formulated by KOW Consulting, is added to the grain.

During the grazing season the cows are moved to new pasture day and night from May to September. In October, Arden starts to feed stored feed to stretch out the rotation and keep grass in the diet all the way to December.

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from *Featured Farm—Landis Farm, page 19*)

Arden clips his pastures ahead of his cows and lets them come in immediately after to graze the pasture. He likes this system because the cows are more efficient at eating over-mature weeds and grasses, and it reduces the moisture level to 40-50% so he is able to get more forage into the cows on a daily basis.

Preventative Management Practices and Health Care

Since converting to organic production, most of the money Arden spends on health care goes towards his preventative management system. Having animals healthy and stress free increases their quality of life as well as Arden’s and Caroline’s. Some of the preventative practices include:

- Vaccinating the heifers when they are moved off the farm at 8 months and again when they are brought back to the farm as breeding age heifers.
- Cows are supplemented with Dynamin (Agri-Dynamic mineral supplement) year-round, provided free choice and added to the feed.
- Hemocell-100 (Agri-Dynamics whey product) is fed to the milkers from the beginning of calving in March to the end of July.
- Regular pasture access during the grazing season and keeping the livestock outside in the wintertime.
- 50-70% of the dry matter intake comes from pasture from May - October
- Housing and out-door access design; putting down cement in the laneway to the parlor – will decrease the incidence of lameness and other foot problems in the herd.
- Feeding low potassium forages to dry cows to prevent milk fever



Landis’ breeds include New Zealand Friesian Holsteins, Jersey crosses, Brown Swiss crosses and Jerseys.

- For calf scour prevention, put ‘Calf Shield’ in the milk and feed the calves ‘Dynamin’ minerals.
- Clean, dry environment with good ventilation.

It is rare that a cow will get mastitis, but when she does it is usually at freshening. Arden will turn to whey products, uddermint therapies, Royal Udder Care and an herbal product by Dr Karreman called Phytomast to stimulate the cow’s immune system and bring her back to health. For parasite management and prevention, he uses ‘Para-tack’ or other herbs. For serious cases of parasites, a fecal sample will be taken and if treatment is necessary, Arden will use Ivermectin.

Arden and Caroline are fortunate to have Dr Hubert Karreman as their veterinarian. There are times in the year when Arden uses his vet so little, that Dr Karreman will call just to check in.

Arden has been very involved in the organic dairy and grazing worlds; he became a NODPA

Representatives in 2003, attends the annual NODPA Field Days in August, contributes articles to *Graze Magazine* and helped organize the Lancaster County Grazing Conferences from 1993 – 2003. He speaks at conferences around the United States and consults with farmers and professionals on a regular basis.

When asked what he thought the organic dairy industry needed to do make sure organic livestock producers were better served, Arden did not hesitate to rattle off a quick reply: “Pasture and last third [of gestation]”. By this he is talking about the subject quick to surface in the organic dairy circle; the need for stricter, measurable standards for pasture and to end the continuous transition of conventional replacements with the goal of guaranteeing a quality product that consumers expect and deserve. ♦

Organic Dairy Farming- A Resource for Farmers

Editor Jody Pagham

Reviewed by Ed Maltby

This year was the first time that I attended the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) annual organic farming conference in La Crosse, WI. I recommend that every organic farmer attend at least one MOSES conference as the depth of knowledge and size of this organic farming community is exhilarating. Similarly "Organic Dairy Farming" is an essential book for any new entrant into organic dairy and a useful resource for the established dairy farmer.

MOSES Education Director, Jody Pagham, has assembled some of the leading authorities on organic farming and arranged the information in a format that makes it easy for the busy, and probably somewhat impatient, dairy farmer to orientate themselves to the essential information necessary in building a successful organic dairy. She leads the reader into the book with a clear understanding that her target audience interest is with dairy cows and the practicalities of what is needed to transition to organic dairy production. The book begins with cow management and then moves onto developing an understanding of organic soil management, leading to organic certification, and ending with a good list of resources and appendixes.

The beauty of farming is that there is no one way to farm but many variations of "good" production practices. Jody has assembled an excellent team of different authors who explain and justify their reasons for different practices, providing a wide and sound basis on which to plan your organic farm operations. The only other way to obtain this much information would be to spend a year touring the different organic conferences and listening to many different presentations from the leaders of the organic dairy community. The farmer profiles are particularly useful in understanding how different farmers apply their knowledge and how much that can vary even within the same region. The basis of good agricultural education is through some "book" knowledge combined with the mentoring of experienced farmers who have "been there" and made the mistakes. The success of twilight meetings highlights the preference that farmers have for learning from each other and this book provides as much of a balance as is practical with the written word.

The greatest difficulty of any educational publication is to remain current and the dynamic growth of organic dairy makes that increasingly difficult. The two initial

challenges that a transitioning farmer faces are certification and finding a buyer for their milk. The chapter dealing with organic certification is excellent in highlighting the importance of building a solid relationship with a certifier. Unfortunately this book does not address finding a buyer for your milk in any depth or explain the many choices that are available to the farmer as they plan their transition. Transitioning producers are moving from a system that gives them little control over the price they receive and who they sell their milk to, into a situation where there often is choice and where they can negotiate a contract with an individual processor or brand. The complexity of this market will not get any easier and any future edition would benefit from a more detailed analysis of the opportunities available for selling organic milk, with some examples of different contracts or how pay price is determined.

Overall this is an excellent reference and educational publication with many great authors and I can imagine that most copies would soon become dog eared with many dirty thumb prints in the corner of the pages. Organic dairy suffers from a lack of resources and I would strongly recommend that work on the 2008 edition of this book is started now, with a couple of long chapters on the choices available for the marketing of organic milk.

*The book is available for sale online at:
<http://www.mosesorganic.org/mosesgeneral/booklist.htm> ♦*



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Learning About Organic Grains in 2006

By *Tim Griffin*
 USDA-ARS New England
 Plant Soil and Water Laboratory



There are a number of research and on-farm experiments in Maine and Vermont that address two important questions in organic dairy production. First, are on-farm grains worth growing? And second, should small grains be harvested as forage or for grain? Below, I have summarized some observations from 2006 concerning these two questions.

quality is high at the boot stage (we found that ADF concentrations in the 25-30% range were common), but dry matter yields of 0.5 to 1.5 tons DM/acre were common, and DM concentration was as low as 15%. These forages would be harvested in early to mid-June, depending on planting date. Leaving the grains until soft dough resulted in lower quality (30-40% ADF), but yields of 2 to 4 tons DM/acre. The harvest stage will depend on the specific forage needs on the farm.

General Observations

Everybody seems to be in agreement on at least one thing – 2006 was a tough year to grow small grains. The wet weather in late May and early June complicated almost every aspect of small grains – tillage, manure spreading, planting, cultivation, and forage harvest. Grains planted just before, during or after this miserable stretch of weather fared poorly. This confirmed the value of early planting for this group of crops – fields planted in late April or early May were for the most part successful.

Are on-farm grains worth growing? Should small grains be harvested as forage or for grain?

Coming Up in 2007

There are already six experiments in place that are evaluating seeding date, species, and soil type effects on winter small grains (triticale, wheat, spelt, and rye) harvested as forage or grain. Additional small plot and on-farm trials will be planted this spring – we will have a large yield and quality database by the end of this year! ♦

Grain Yields

Three factors affected grain yields, which ranged from zero to nearly 100 bu/acre. One, as noted above, was planting date. Aside from the weather effects, most grains just don't like late planting because their tillering is tied to daylength. Barley is particularly sensitive to planting in June, and seeding rates must be increased to overcome the lack of tillering. Weed management was the second important factor. If cultivation either was not part of the management plan or could not be done because of wet soils, yields were reduced. Our research plots at Orono and Newport showed that there was a direct relationship between early season weed growth and yield. Nutrient management, especially for nitrogen, was also a challenge. Although small grains don't need as much N as corn, they need 60-80 lb/acre, which is most often met with manure application. A portion of applied N was lost during the wet period in early summer. In general, oat was the most forgiving small grain, yielding well across a range of conditions, while stand failures were common for barley. Other grains, including wheat, triticale, and spelt, varied by location.

Small Grain Forages

There are two opportunities to harvest small grains as forage; the boot stage and the soft dough stage. Forage

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More on Frost Seeding

*By Darrell Emmick
New York State Grazing Specialist*

Frost seeding only works if the seeds you broadcast actually reach the soil surface where they can germinate and send roots into the soil. Seeds that land on last year's dead vegetation or thatch may germinate, but because they can't reach the soil surface with their roots, they just dry up and die.

The secret to a successful frost seeding is in the planning. You will want to graze your pasture hard in the fall previous to the spring in which you want to seed. By grazing your pasture close or tightly, you are removing green vegetation before it becomes a dead vegetation problem in the spring. Remember, no seed to soil contact, no new plant growth.

I should tell you, I am not a strong believer in frost seeding. In the past 25 years of walking around in pastures, I have seen very little frost heaving. Some, yes, but more in hay fields. No frost heaving, no frost seeding. Thus, a better low cost strategy is to let your live-



stock stomp the seed in the ground.

As with any seeding, soil test and apply what is

(Continued on page 24)




USDA Organic Certification for Dairy Producers in PA and Adjoining States

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(Continued from Frost Seeding, page 23)

needed. Graze your pasture hard in the fall prior to the spring in which you want to seed. But rather than hope frost will bury your seeds, I recommend you wait until the frost is out of the ground, and broadcast your seed on a warm spring day. The soil should be soft and damp but not muddy. Once the seed has been broadcast, use temporary wire to herd your livestock on to small sections of the pasture at a time. Hoof action, is far more reliable than frost action. Caution! Do not churn the soil into a muddy mess. You will likely do more harm than good. A light stomping is a good thing, but keep in mind when we conventionally seed pastures, we are generally looking to place seeds in the soil less than one-half of an inch deep.

So what should you seed? As most livestock prefer legumes over grass by a 70:30 margin, and animal performance is higher on legumes than on grass, if I were you, I would be seeding my favorite legume. Naturally, give the new plants a chance to establish before you graze them. If you can grab a handful of 6 to 8 inch tall

new plants and give them a hard tug and they come out of the ground roots and all, so can your livestock. When the new plants stay rooted and all you get is a handful of leaves, it is safe to graze the new seedings. Frost seedings and stomp seedings are not as effective as more conventional seedings, but they are cheap, and you can do them many times for the cost of a conventional seeding. They can work, but remember, you need to have your planning and preparation work done 6 months to a year ahead of time.

Reprinted from the March 2007 issue of the electronic GLCI Gazette. To subscribe, send an email to karen.sullivan@ny.usda.gov.

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Research and Education

eOrganic – Comprehensive, Research-Based Electronic Information For Organic Producers, Educators, and Ag Professionals

By Jim Riddle, Organic Outreach Coordinator, University of Minnesota



The organic marketplace is growing rapidly, outpacing the availability of high quality, science-based information for farmers and agricultural professionals. **eXtension** is a new national, web-based, information source for Land Grant University (LGU) faculty and Extension agents to consolidate research findings and outreach materials. Within the framework of eXtension, **eOrganic** is being developed as the new organic agriculture Extension Service website to provide accurate and up-to-date information for organic farmers, conventional farmers, researchers, and agricultural professionals.

The eOrganic effort is being lead by researchers, Extension agents, and educators from Oregon State, Penn State, North Carolina State, Ohio State, Clemson, and the Universities of Illinois, Minnesota, and Vermont, in

cooperation with ATTRA, OFRF, Rodale, and the National Ag Library. The eOrganic site will be launched in the fall of 2007, featuring in-depth content in three major areas of organic agriculture: certification; dairy production and marketing; and vegetable production and marketing.

The eOrganic Community of Practice (i.e. leadership team) is currently comprised of approximately 100 people representing diverse organic production regions and content areas. They include campus and county extension faculty and research and teaching faculty recognized for their expertise in organic and sustainable agriculture. In addition, the CoP includes experienced organic farmers, certification experts, and agricultural professionals.

The target audience includes a diverse group of conventional and organic farmers in all regions of the U.S., producing a wide array of horticultural and agronomic crops, livestock, and other agricultural products. A goal of the eOrganic project is provide high quality information on organic agriculture to agricultural professionals such as crop advisors, veterinarians, researchers, federal agencies (such as NRCS employees), processors, certification agencies, Extension educators, and Extension specialists.

The vision and framework for eOrganic is being developed and evaluated in partnership with key organic agriculture information providers such as ATTRA, The New Farm, OrganicAgInfo and the National Ag Library. eOrganic will initially offer searchable content consisting of brief articles; nationally compiled Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs); an interactive Ask-the-Expert tool; regionally-specific case studies; certification resources and decision tools; and a portal to in-depth information available from other sources, including partner sites (OrganicAgInfo, ATTRA, SARE) and local and regional Land Grant University and Cooperative Extension resources.

eOrganic team members and coordinators will identify and evaluate all relevant resources as a first step in developing eOrganic content. Existing information resources will be archived on the eOrganic site. Where information gaps are identified, team members will access and/or develop new content to populate the eOrganic site.

Over time, eOrganic will offer video streaming of expert presentations and certificate and continuing edu-

(Continued on page 26)



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Crystal Creek Natural Animal Health Care Products

**** From Northeast organic farmers to Northeast organic farmers ****

(Continued from eOrganic, page 25)

cation courses. Organic systems researchers and experienced organic producers and certification experts will provide content. In addition, Integrated Organic Program (IOP), SARE, ARS, and other research results will be collected, discussed, distilled, and translated into eOrganic content to deliver systems information to farmers and increase the impact of federal research dollars.

eOrganic will provide timely information on critical issues such as systems-level soil and pest management, animal health, grazing, feed supplements, community food systems, and international certification requirements. eOrganic will be evaluated from the beginning to the end of the project by organic farmers, conventional farmers, and agricultural professionals to develop the highest quality content and most effective delivery systems for these user groups.

To learn more about eXtension, and to see an example of an eXtension website, please go to <http://www.extension.org>

Jim is the Organic Outreach Coordinator for the University of Minnesota. Jim was founding chair of the Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA), co-author of the IFOAM/IOIA International Inspection Manual and former chair of the USDA's National Organic Standards Board. ♦

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Do You Run the Farm or Does The Farm Run You? Organic Dairy Managing For Success!!!

When tasks and problems pile up it sometimes feels like the farm runs you, instead of you running the farm. This winter is a good time to get back in control and re-evaluate your goals.

This two day workshop will help you get control over your time, finances, and generally your life. Participants will take the time to establish their core values and goals, design plans to achieve these goals, and to begin learning concepts to help you manage your farm holistically, to the benefit of your family, animals, the environment, and future generations.

Extension Educators Fay Benson and John Thurgood will facilitate the workshop which will allow you to explore your own situation and talk with other farmers in the group. Fay has a wealth of experience that he gained while managing an organic dairy farm. John Thurgood is a Certified Holistic Management educator and whole farm planner in the New York City Watershed.

“There’s an opportunity now for people to make some good money in organic dairy,” says workshop facilitator Fay Benson. “One concept of management that needs to change when farmers transition from conventional to organic is their time management. In conventional dairy production there are lots of tools to change or correct *short-term* situations by using: antibiotics, hormones, fertilizers, weed spray, etc. These are no longer available in organic management. Farmers need to manage their time so that they are spending it on actions that are preventive and benefit them in the *long-term*. You have figure out how to use your resources most effectively to create a sustainable, profitable and enjoyable farming system.”

This program is planned to meet the specific needs of organic and transitioning dairy farms, however dairy farms of all types are welcome!!!

Oneonta Southside Holiday Inn: March 7 and 14, 10:30 AM to 3:30PM, Registration- \$20 per farm for the entire workshop, Deadline March 5.

Contact Rachel Shaver at (315) 866-7920 or email at: rjs86@cornell.edu or Dave Balbian, Area Dairy Management Educator of Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Central New York Dairy & Field Crops Team at 518-762-3909 Ext: 110, or send an email to: drb23@cornell.edu. The workshop is sponsored by the NY Organic Dairy Initiative, NY Farm Viability Institute, Cornell Cooperative Extension, NOFA-NY and the Watershed Agricultural Council. ♦

Commentary

'Commentary' is an open forum for sharing thoughts, opinions, concerns, and whatever else inspires you. Please send your submissions, up to 1,000 words, to the Editor (see page 2 for contact information). The views expressed below are those of the author(s) and in no way represent the official views of NODPA or any of its representatives.

February 7, 2007

Honorable Secretary M. Johanns
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns,

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont has recently learned of a October 26, 2006 letter sent to you by administrators of five of the nation's largest organic dairy processors pertaining to the proposed final rule on organic dairy pasture standards. We are writing to express our grave concerns about the recommendations put forth in that letter, as have hundreds of organic dairy producers who have contacted you and National Organic Program officials through their regional producer associations. If adopted in a final rule, we believe these recommendations would call into question the integrity of organic dairy products in the minds of consumers and, therefore, jeopardize the future growth of organic milk markets and the livelihood of organic dairy producers throughout the country.

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) was founded in 1971 and is one of the oldest organic farming associations in the nation. Our Dairy and Livestock Technical Assistance Program is now working with almost two hundred organic and transitioning-to-organic dairies and is recognized nationally as a leader in providing direct on-farm technical assistance, technical information and education to organic dairy farmers. NOFA-VT is the parent company of Vermont Organic Farmers, LLC, Vermont's only USDA-NOP accredited certifying agent. We work closely with the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets; USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Agency, as well as many other state and national organizations.

As you well know, the effort to develop pasture standards that are widely practicable *and* consistent

with the values and expectations of consumers of organic dairy products has been a long, thoughtful and fruitful "public conversation" involving the entire organic dairy community -- producers, processors, manufacturers, consumers and others. This process has resulted in the following widely supported proposed standard: (1) Ruminant livestock must graze pasture for the growing season *but not less than* 120 days per year, (2) The grazed pasture must provide a significant portion of the total feed requirements *but not less than* 30% of the dry matter intake on an average daily basis during the growing season. This proposed standard has been recommended by the National Organic Standards Board to the National Organic Program as the basis for a final rule.

Together, these standards would insure that organic milk products in this country continue to enjoy the support of growing numbers of consumers who not only demand more healthful foods, but also animal production systems that are environmentally sound and pay proper regard to the natural behaviors and welfare of livestock. The general public, and organic dairy consumers in particular, are increasingly knowledgeable about the importance of grazing and other agricultural practices in this regard. Recent studies by the Center for Food Safety in Washington, D.C. and Tufts University's School of Nutritional Science and Policy have documented these and other concerns among organic dairy consumers.

It is critical that the USDA-NOP promulgate organic dairy pasture standards that unambiguously and objectively respond to these concerns. The recommendations included in the processors' letter clearly fail this test: Though a 120 day "access to pasture" requirement is endorsed, there is no measurable and objective standard proposed which would insure that grazed forages constitute a significant portion of a dairy animal's diet or time spent on pasture each day. The proposed standard -- "[that] the pasture plan maximizes feed consumption from pasture during the crop year and demonstrates an appropriate relationship, [and], maintains or improves the quality of the pasture and the health, safety and well-being of the animal" -- entirely lacks operational definition and measurable performance benchmarks. As such, it invites widely different interpretations by certifying agents, abuse by unscrupulous producers, and confusion and disparagement of organic dairy products in domestic and international marketplaces. It therefore fails to provide the uniform and reliable standard necessary to insure the integrity of organic dairy products and the confidence of consumers, without which the demand for organic

(Continued on page 28)

(Continued from Pasture Letter, page 27)

dairy products will stagnate.

In contrast, a standard requiring ruminant livestock to graze pasture for the growing season *but not less than* 120 days per year, and, that grazed pasture provide a significant portion of the total feed requirements *but not less than* 30% of the dry matter intake on an average daily basis during the growing season, provides credible, objective and verifiable criteria that can be easily understood and quantified by certifiers, feed nutritionists and producers alike.

Substantial testimony given before the NOSB last year by NOFA-VT's Dairy and Livestock Technical Assistance Program farm advisors, among others, provided ample evidence that this standard, with suitable and reasonable exceptions, is appropriate, accurate and capable of being implemented by organic dairy producers *in all regions of the country*. Compliance with the 30% requirement is easily verifiable and readily calculated on farms using measurable and available pasture production and feed records.

In recent years, we have worked with approximately one hundred organic farms in Vermont to develop proficiency in these calculations as part of their organic system planning. We would be happy to provide you and others with specific details and examples that demonstrate the workability and accuracy of these calcula-

tions.

Mr. Secretary, the remarkable growth of the organic dairy industry has provided great opportunities and benefits to many hundreds of dairy farm families, businesses and rural communities throughout the country. The potential for continued and substantial growth in this sector of the food economy is well recognized, but will only be fully realized if the number of consumers of organic dairy products continues to expand. This will require that organic dairy products maintain their valued position in the marketplace by clearly embodying a range of increasingly prevalent environmental, health and ethical values. For the reasons given above, we strongly believe that the adoption of a final rule based on the above 120day/30% standard is necessary and critical to insure the continuing vitality of the organic dairy sector and the economic security of organic dairy farmers.

We urge you to carefully consider these remarks as you develop a proposed final rule on pasture standards. We invite you to contact NOFA-VT for further information, documentation or clarification pertaining to any of the points discussed in this letter.

Respectfully,

Enid Wonnacott
Executive Director
NOFA-VT

David L. Rogers
Farm Policy Advisor
NOFA-VT



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Calendar

Homeopathy for Farm Animals

March 12-13, 2007

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8:30 – 4:30, \$100 registration; includes breakfast, lunch, course materials & reference books. Spend two full days with Dr. Glen Dupree, a homeopathic veterinarian. Dr. Dupree has been practicing veterinary medicine for over 20 years, and has been practicing classical veterinary homeopathy for 10 years. During the two-day workshop, Dr. Dupree will teach the theory, philosophy and mechanics of classical homeopathy and will show you how to apply them in every day situations on your farm. Visit

www.animalcompassionfoundation.org for registration form For questions, call: (512) 542-0640 Register early, spaces are limited!

National Organic Dairy Producers Conference

March 15-17, 2007

Fortuna, California.

Tentative list of speakers include: Dr Arden Anderson, Jerry Brunetti, Dr Alan Greene, Gary Zimmer, Will Winters DVM. Conference will include organic Industry Trade Show, and regional and national organic dairy producers meetings.

Contact:

Soil Aerator Field Day

March 16, 2007

John Blank Farm Kinser, PA

Examination of AerWay, Gen-Till and Smart-Till aerator technologies.

Emphasis on manure management

Contact: Katy Hoberg 717-299-5361 x -134

NYCO Monthly Meeting

March 20, 2007

Jordan Hall, Geneva Exp. Station,

Cornell University, Geneva, NY

Regular monthly meeting with emphasis on vertical tillage systems and soil amendments with emphasis on transition strategies to organic certification. Contact: Klaas or Mary-Howells Martens, kandmhfarm@sprintmail.com

3rd Biennial Conference on Agriculture in the Hudson River Valley

"Success Stories from Our Own

Backyard": Farm Profitability - Farmland Protection - Agricultural Economic Development.

March 16, 2007

The Hudson Valley Agricultural Partnership, Columbia-Greene Community College Hudson, NY

9:00am - 5:00pm.

Registration = \$35 For more information contact: The Lower Hudson - Long Island Resource Conservation and Development Council Inc. (845) 883-7162 ext. 103 (weekdays 8 - 4) or Email: joseph.heller@ny.usda.gov Also visit our website at: www.hvap.org

Homeopathy for Farm Animals

March 21-22, 2007

Best Western University Inn

1020 Ellis Hollow Road, Ithaca, NY

8:30AM to 4:30PM, \$100 Registration Fee (includes breakfast, lunch, snacks, course materials and reference books)

Spend two full days with Dr. Glen Dupree, a homeopathic veterinarian. Dr. Dupree has been practicing veterinary medicine for over 20 years, and has been practicing classical veterinary homeopathy for 10 years. During the two-day workshop, Dr. Dupree will teach the theory, philosophy and mechanics of classical homeopathy and will show you how to apply them in every day situations on your farm. Visit www.animalcompassionfoundation.org for registration form For questions, call: (512) 542-0640 Register early, spaces are limited!

Third Annual Northeast Pennsylvania Grazing Conference

March 23, 2007

Harford Volunteer Fire Company

Harford, PA (Susquehanna County)

8:30 am to 3:30 pm , cost \$15

Featuring Joel Salatin of Polyface Farm in Swoope, Virginia and Dr. Bill Curran of Penn State on pasture weed management. For more information contact Kris Ribble at 570-784-4401 ext. 111 or kris.ribbon@pa.usda.gov.

Introduction to Organic Pasture Management

March 29, 2007

Brigham Hill Community Barn in Grafton, Massachusetts

10:00 - 2:30. The cost is \$10 (\$5 for NOFA/Mass members). Lunch will be provided. Grazing specialists Willie Gibson, NOFA-VT Organic Dairy and Livestock Technical Advisor, Stephen Herbert, UMass Extension Educator and Professor of Agronomy, and Larry Shearer, dairy farmer and SARE Grazing Educator, will discuss organic rotational grazing systems, management intensive grazing systems, pasture fertility and soil health. Sponsored by NOFA/Mass and Baystate Organic Certifiers, with support from Organic Valley and Stonyfield Farm. Contact: Kate Rossiter, NOFA/Mass Organic Dairy Coordinator, at (413) 625-0118, or Don Franczyk, Baystate Organic Certifiers, at (978) 297-4171

"Graze-A-Palooza" Spring Grazing Conference

March 31, 2007

White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton, New York

Admission is \$ 30.00, which includes lunch, trade show and materials Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Graze-NY Program and regional partners. Featuring **Dr. Kate Clancy**, Senior Scientist and Consultant from the Union of Concerned Scientists and author of 'Greener Pastures: How grass-fed beef and milk contribute to healthy eating'. Her interests are in pasture-raised animal systems, policies related to agriculture, farmland preservation, farm viability and food systems planning. **Mr. Jerry Burnett**, author, speaker and founder of Agri-Dynamics whose focus is on preserving our soils, our health, our families and our communities utilizing grassland ethics. **Dr. Susan Beal DVM**, Big Run Healing Arts who specializes in Homeopathic medicine and herbal remedies for pets, horses and livestock. **Holly Burley and Gary Burley**, East Hill Pasture-

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Based Dairy Farm and Contributors to the GRAZE Magazine **Mike Debach**, Leona Meat Plant and All Natural Beef Company **James Ochterski**, Cornell CCE, Schuyler Co. Balancing Grassland Bird Habitat Practical Farmer Sessions include: Soil Life, Stocking Rate Strategies, Tree Crops, Young Grazing Families, Grassland Birds, Ask the Vet, Knapweed/Bedstraw Eradication, Startup Custom Grazing Operations, Ask the Butcher, Small Farm Marketing, Grass-Fed Meats for Pets, Grazing Small Grains and More!! The noon time meal will feature an array of all New York State Grass-Fed meats and dairy products. For more info: Troy Bishopp at 315 824-9849. Pre-registration is required Call Kim Totten at (607) 334-3231 Ext. 4 or register online @ www.cnyrcd.org hes7@cornell.edu.

**Transitioning Dairy Cows and Other Livestock Onto Grass in Spring
April 12, 2007**

- 9:30 am to 12:00 noon - Winner's Circle, Fonda (Montgomery County, NY). Karen Sullivan speaker. Call Montgomery County SWCD for info at 518-853-4015.

Net Update



ODAIRY- information and opinion on organic dairying and life!

Whether you are a conventional farmer, interested consumer, purchaser of organic products or government official, you will find information that is necessary to understand the growing organic milk market. If you are an organic or transitioning dairy farmer and need information on feed, politics, equipment, workshops and much more from people doing the work, join the 654 subscribers to the list-serve which is moderated by NODPA.

This is yet another service of NODPA, so don't forget to pay your dues to keep this list serve alive and working. To subscribe to ODAIRY, follow the instructions on our Web Site, www.nodpa.com or email: ODAIRY-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

NODPA Web Site

www.nodpa.com is the NODPA website. The website is a resource for organic dairy farmers, organic milk producers and consumers interested in organic dairy farming and products. If you want to learn about the dairy side of the National Organic Program; find a certifier, or get some advice on transitioning; checkout the NODPA web site. If you missed an article in past NODPA News, all the back issues are there and downloadable, along with numerous articles on different aspects of organic dairy production. The site has current national news on organic dairies; an organic dairy business directory; a calendar of events; numerous links to processors and other groups, plus information on how to join NODPA and subscribe to ODAIRY. ♦



Advertise In the NODPA News

Place your ad directly in the hands
of your target market—
Organic Dairy Farmers

We are currently printing 2,000 copies of
the NODPA News which is distributed at work-
shops and conferences and
mailed directly to our members.

Our mailing list is 1,200 and growing...

Our next advertising deadline is
April 7th, 2007

Contact Lisa McCrory
802-234-5524
lmccrory@together.net

NODPA Check Off Producer Milk Check Assignment Form

I, _____ (please print name on your milk check)

request that _____ (name of company that sends your milk check)

deduct the sum of :

\$0.02 per hundredweight to support the work of NODPA

\$0.05 per hundredweight to support the work of NODPA (the amount that has been deducted in the past for national milk marketing but has now been returned to you as an organic producer if you have applied for the exemption.) If you need assistance in applying for the exemption, check here _____

\$0.07 per hundredweight (the \$.05 marketing check-off plus \$0.02)

as an assignment from my milk check starting the first day of _____, 200__. The total sum will be paid monthly to NODPA. This agreement may be ended at any time by the producer by sending a written request to their milk buyer with a copy to NODPA. Milk handlers please send payments to: Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (NODPA), Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director, 30 Keets Rd, Deerfield, MA 01342.

Producer signature: _____ Date: _____ Producer number/ member no: _____

Number of milking cows: _____ Tel #: _____ E-mail: _____

Certifying Agency: _____

Farm Address: _____

Become a Subscribing Member!

By becoming a subscribing member you will receive NODPA News and help support the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance. NODPA depends on your membership contributions and donations. If you enjoy this newsletter, visit our web page, and benefit from the education and farmer representation that NODPA has been providing, please show your support by making a generous contribution to our efforts.

Note that if you sign up for the NODPA Milk Check- Off, you will be automatically signed up as a NODPA News subscriber.

___ \$35 to cover NODPA news ___ \$300 to become a Friend ___ \$500 to become a Sponsor member

___ \$100 to become a supporter of NODPA ___ \$1,000 to become a Patron ___ \$2,000+ to become a Benefactor

Name: _____ Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Are you a certified organic dairy producer? Yes No

Number of milking cows: _____ Milk buyer: _____

Are you transitioning to organic? Yes No If Yes – proposed date of certification _____

Mail this form with a check payable to NODPA to: Ed Maltby, 30 Keets Rd, Deerfield, MA 01342. Thank you.

**Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
(NODPA)**

c/o Ed Maltby
30 Keets Rd.
Deerfield, MA 01342

**Prsrtd Std
US Postage Paid**

Classified Ads

WANTED

Young family working towards future ownership of Dairy/crop farm. Very enthusiastic about the future of my family of seven being raised on a farm. I am agriculturally and mechanically educated, while my wife is a registered nurse. I am currently a machinist and part time farmer. Looking for a dairy, 40-90 cows, where my children can learn the responsibility and dedication of farm life. Possibly diversifying into other operations such as beef, crop, direct marketing, education. Wanting to work into ownership, build equity in chatels, work on your farm. Open to all options. Bob Anderson

and Family, (740)269-1100♦

I operate and manage my parents dairy and cash crop farm in western PA. I am looking for other pasture-based opportunities, either to rent a farm, or manage a farm/herd for someone. I have many assets to offer as well as 20 good Holstein cows and 15 young replacements. I have been working close with my parents for the last 8 years, and am also an animal sciences grad from PSU. Differences in our approaches to dairying are make us look at different options. Matt Borbonus, Blairsville PA
farmerbuggyman@yahoo.com♦



Get Your NODPA Gear Today!

Hat = \$15.50 T-shirt = \$13.50
Bumper Sticker = \$1.25 each (or)
25 for \$19.75

Shipping Included

Make check payable to: NODPA.
Send to: NODPA, c/o Ed Maltby
30 Keets Rd, Deerfield, MA 01342