

# NODPA News

Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance

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## Access to Pasture: The Details

By Kathie Arnold, Lisa McCrory, Sarah Flack and Ed Maltby

The long awaited proposed access to pasture rule was released onto the Federal Register on Friday October 24, 2008. Overall this rule includes everything that producers have asked for and guarantees to consumers that organic milk production meets their expectations. It holds organic dairy producers to a high standard, a standard which consumers expect for products labeled as certified organic. It also gives very clear language that certifiers can use to implement the rule fairly and universally.

The 26-page document contains rulemaking language that provides measurable and verifiable pasture grazing standards, clearly prohibiting drylots and feedlots, and strengthening the role that the organic systems plan plays in organic certification. The proposed rule clearly states that pasture has to be managed as a crop and that farmers shall provide "year round access for all animals to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas..." and during the growing season, farmers shall provide not more than 70% of cow's diet from fed feeds and at least 30% from pasture. Growing season is defined as from the last

killing frost in the spring to the first killing frost in the fall or early winter.

In the first 24 pages there are excellent explanations for why different language was used in the proposed rule and the document clearly identifies the careful and thorough deliberations of the National Organic Program (NOP) and the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB), acknowledging

the many comments sent to USDA from farmers, processors, consumers, and environmental and other NGO's.

On page 8 of this issue we give a side by side comparison of the new proposed language and the existing language. In some cases, such as beef production, it highlights how existing language has been very loosely interpreted by some certifiers. Below are the highlights

of the proposed rule that NODPA gives a resounding thumbs-up to:

- The 30% DMI from pasture averaged over the grazing season by using the flip side – no more than 70% fed feeds – as a way of documenting the data.

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**The complete rule, showing deletions and new language.**

ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

From The Outgoing President

By Kathie Arnold

Times do change; sometimes slowly but exponentially at other moments as seen in the recent demise of long term financial companies and banks and the rapidity of movement on the part of the federal government in brokering a bailout deal. At the other end of the movement scale has been the promulgation of the pasture rule, but a milestone has finally been reached with the recent publication of the proposed pasture rule. It was surprising in extensiveness but most gratifying with the inclusion of a requirement for at least 30% dry matter intake from pasture during the grazing season—something farmers have been working towards for a long time. And because it is 'proposed', there is the opportunity to comment on the areas that call for some revision.

Thanks to all of you who have returned the organic dairy farmer survey. Preliminary results have shown that times have changed for many organic dairy farms. Of those who have responded to our survey, 70% said that their financial picture is either worse this year than previous years, the poorest since being organic, or worse than much of the time when conventional. 35% characterize their farm as having a great or good financial picture, 35% a fair financial picture, 18% poor, and 12% on the edge of financial ruin. 53% are going into winter with either inadequate quantity or quality of forage. 50% replied that they have

stopped or reduced feeding grain because of the high cost. These figures are very preliminary but they do not paint a pretty picture of the state of organics down on the farm—dairy farms that is. If you haven't already done so, I would encourage you to fill out and return the survey (found in the September issue of NODPA News or accessible it at [http://www.nodpa.com/september\\_survey.pdf](http://www.nodpa.com/september_survey.pdf)). The more results NODPA gets, the more representative our data will be.

A change is also in the works for me. My term on the NODPA Board is up and I decided that after almost eight years of high involvement with NODPA that I would step away from such active engagement. My intention is to stay involved in organic dairy standards issues and, with the pasture rule being just out, there is no vacation for me yet. I will remain fully engaged during the proposed rule comment period. I will also continue to be a voice for organic dairy in other venues—the Northeast Dairy Leadership Team, the NYS Milk Marketing Advisory Council, the NYS Dairy Task Force, etc.

With our change in by-laws earlier this year, the NODPA officers are now elected each year around the time of the annual meeting. I heartily welcome NODPA's new president, Henry Perkins, to the role of leading this organization. NODPA has come a long way since its start in 2001. The challenges of maintaining the sustainability of organic dairy farming for family farms are extensive and the need for an organization to work on our behalf is continuous. May NODPA continue to grow, develop, and help meet the needs of the family farms who have embraced dairy farming the organic way. ♦

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ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

Proposed Pasture Rule:  
Thoughtful Steps to the Final  
Pasture Rule

By Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director

Final Pasture Rule by Spring 2009 –  
Implementation in Spring 2010

As we predicted in the last NODPANews, the Proposed Pasture Rule was published October 23, 2008 with a 60-day comment period. NODPA was happy to provide a venue for the first listening session on the last day of the NODPA Field Days.

What happens next?

The comment period on the proposed rule will end on December 23, 2008. After reviewing the comments, the USDA NOP will write up a final rule, take it through the federal process and hopefully publish a final rule in spring 2009. There will likely be a phase in period of a complete grazing season to give certifiers time to adapt their farms, educate inspectors and give producers time to make any changes they may need to their existing farm. IF we can keep the process moving, final implementation would likely be in spring 2010.

NODPA has devoted a large chunk of this edition of NODPA News to give perspective and analysis of the proposed rule. NODPA and FOOD Farmers are working with many organizations including the National Organic Coalition, National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Organic Trade Association, Organic Farming and Research Foundation, Accredited Certifiers Association, Cornucopia Institute, processors, and certifiers, coordinating comments, data and suggested language to submit to the NOP.

NODPA will work to find as much consensus as possible in providing comment and ask producers to send questions,

opinions and comments they have on the proposed rule to NODPA either by mail, fax or email.

NODPA will circulate producer thoughts on Odairy and email newsletters, and will hold producer meetings at convenient locations as time and circumstances permit. The NODPA Board and State Reps, MODPA and WODPA will hold conference calls to discuss comments and coordinate positions wherever possible.

There will be at least two more listening sessions by the USDA in December 2008—one in the Midwest and one in the West. These are a great opportunity for producers and others to ask questions directly to Richard Mathews and other NOP employees.

What can you as a producer do?

Send NODPA information and data on how you already meet these standards or where you see difficulties in incorporating these practices into your operation.

Write a personal letter (form letters are bundled together and don't carry the weight of individual letters) to the NOP explaining that you support the rule and the importance of a pasture standard that has specific language and is very clear about its intent. You should also explain how this rule will affect your operation and include any areas of concern you may have.

We will need as many personal letters from producers as possible to send into the NOP.

This can either be done by sending them by mail, fax or email to NODPA and we can forward them to the NOP or send them directly to the USDA addressed to: Richard H. Mathews, Chief, Standards Development and Review Branch, National Organic Program, Transportation and Marketing Programs, USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Room 4008- So., Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250. By Internet: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Written comments on this proposed rule should be identified with the docket number AMS-TM-06-0198; TM-05-14. All this information is on the NODPA website – <http://www.nodpa.com/rule.shtml> ♦



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ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

# Financial Squeeze Causes Consumer Shifts

By Samuel Fromartz

You see it in the news every day now. Wal-Mart reporting a spike sales of necessities on pay day, meaning people are living paycheck to paycheck. Restaurant sales tumbling. Car sales at their lowest level in years.

So if everyone is cutting back, where does that leave the organic sector?

Surprisingly, it's not in bad shape.

"We're getting a bang in sales, and it happened in the last recession too," said Barth Anderson at the Wedge in Minneapolis, one of the nation's oldest cooperatives.

"Once the economy started to go south in February, our sales started to gain," he said. "We're probably averaging a 10% rise in sales, though the gains have been as high as 15-17%."

How can this be, in the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, with layoffs rising, retirement accounts shrinking and the government spending hundreds of billions of dollars to keep the economy afloat?

Anderson thinks two factors are at work. First, people are cutting back on restaurants, where Americans normally spend about for half of all food dollars. Secondly, they are driving less, which means fewer vacations or weekends away. Instead, they are staying put and cooking at home.

"If you look at people's grocery carts, they are buying more," he said. "Our co-op membership count is also going up, so we're getting more people in the store and the amount of food they're putting in their baskets is also rising."

But the Wedge is a supermarket for core organic shoppers, who understand and buy into the values of organic and local food. They will continue to buy organic, and perhaps even buy more of it, even when they are cutting back in other areas.

For shoppers who are less convinced of its merits, organic food might be viewed as a "discretionary" purchase they might avoid in order to save money. Or if they are on the edge and considering buying organic for the first time, they might be less inclined to make that conversion now.

So far, sales in the "mainstream" channel don't seem to be suffering either. Aurora Organic Dairy, which sells private label organic milk to grocers like Wal-Mart, has not noticed any fall in

demand.

"We're continuing to see 20-25% growth in the private label market," said Mark Retzloff of Aurora Organic Dairy. "And organic dairy overall continues to lead the organic sector." Aurora continues to sell out on milk, "which is where I want to be."

He did say people are shifting to stores where "they can get better value," which plays into Aurora's business for private label.

But Eric Newman, vice president of sales at Organic Valley, also said consumers were responding to "value." Newman said that sales of private-label milk at Whole Foods, which OV supplies, is growing in the 20% range, 13% above budget.

"There's been a slowdown in brands and an increase in private label," he said.

Newman also said OV coupon redemptions were higher than expected, meaning people are seeking out specials and sales. "Whenever anything is on promotion, sales go up," Anderson at the Wedge said.

To capture this edge, Whole Foods Markets, the largest natural and organic retailer, has been emphasizing promotions, private label items, and "value" oriented meals, trying to shift its image from "Whole Paycheck." Its sales have downshifted after years of strong growth, as consumers shy away from products they might have dabbled in before but which they don't view as necessities.

As for dairy, Newman said OV's sales were about 2-3% higher than it anticipated, even with two price increases since January 2008.

Overall, organic milk continues to lead the organic category, growing at 20% in the 52-weeks ending the second week in August, according to data from SPINScan, a market research firm. This excludes Wal-Mart and Whole Foods private label data.

The second-strongest category, packaged produce, such as salad mixes, was also up 11% year-over-year in August.

Among branded products, organic dairy sales were up to 25% at Horizon Organic, 17% at Organic Valley, and 9% at Stonyfield Farm.

But Retzloff, who has says its still early in the economic downturn and wonders what will happen as recession intensifies.

"We're a little more insulated because organic consumers are making a lifestyle choice," he said. "But it's still early and in three months it could be very different."

*Samuel Fromartz is the author of Organic Inc.: Natural Foods and How They Grew (Harcourt, 2006). His web-site is at www.fromartz.com and he blogs at www.chewswise.com.*

ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

# The Proposed Rule—How Does it Fit On Your Farm?

By Kathie Arnold

The recently published proposed pasture rule encompasses a wide range of topics from minimum pasture intake to outdoor access to clarifying bedding sources, as its intention is to address other compliance issues as well as pasture. It is a very comprehensive writing that approaches the pasture topic from multiple directions to ensure closure of any possible loopholes. As a result, the proposed rule has a large number of changes in many sections of the regulation.

I have spoken with a number of people from around the country and this article is a first take on how some areas of the proposed rule, as it currently stands, will affect my farm and other farms. My ears are open and I welcome input from other producers who I haven't had an opportunity to hear from yet.

The main focus of this proposed rule is to provide changes to ensure that organic ruminants are grazing throughout the growing season. Included is the requirement that ruminants are to be provided "with an average of not less than 30 percent of their dry matter intake from grazing throughout the growing season". The definition

of growing season states that it "may range from 121 to 365 days", determined by the average period between killing frosts for the local area. This definition works in a large share of the country but will be problematic in parts of the West and perhaps deep southern areas. In some areas the freezing temperature period of the year is very short or non-existent, yet there is a natural season of dormancy for forage plants or extensive rain during the winter season.

If those time periods could be acknowledged as non-grazing times, then most all existing organic dairy farms should not have a problem meeting this requirement for their mature animals, as most already meet this level or greater of pasture intake for 120 days or more. It is gratifying that the proposed rule has come out so strongly on the pasture front to have a pasture requirement that will be measurable and enforceable.

According to the National Climatic Center data, my area (central NY) has 167 days in our growing season as defined in the proposed rule, yet most years we are able to graze for 200 or more days and will normally average 40% or more intake from pasture with the

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## ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

## Access to Pasture: The Details

continued from page 1

- The 30% DMI figure is also mentioned as required from pasture.
- That 121 days is the minimum length of time for a growing season in the USA, but provides no excuse for producers with a longer growing season to just meet the minimum or to be arguing whether its 119 or 118 days as being sufficient.
- The growing season has been defined which allows producers to add more definition that would include the dormant season in the west. This definition recognizes the compliance issue that has already been encountered as some producers attempted to find loopholes in the existing rule.
- That feedlots and dry lots are prohibited. Even though there can be dry feeding areas as part of a progressive grazing plan, these terms are now associated by consumers as being "bad." In many parts of the country barnyards, feeding areas, high traffic areas serve the specific needs of experienced graziers in inclement weather.
- Outdoor winter access is required. The rule broadens the requirement for year round outdoor access with a few exemptions: birthing, newborns up to six months of age, segregation for treatment of injury or illness, and for milking. These same exemptions apply to the requirement for pasture. This is an area of the proposed rule that we will need to present comments and data on so it can be adapted to include inclement weather as an allowable exemption and to allow the use of high use areas, such as barnyards and shelters, during the non-growing season to protect soil and water quality and animal health and safety.
- Stocking rate has been dropped as a way to measure



**Richard Matthews, far left, at a listening session on the pasture rule at the recent NODPA Field Days in New York. For more on the Field Days, go to page 22.**

the necessary land base and productive pasture to meet adequate consumption of dry matter from pasture.

- The 30% DMI (no more than 70% fed feed) is required for all animals over 6 months.
- Hay to be available to calves from at least 7 days. Many producers supply hay from birth for a ruminant so this is a useful requirement although there are a variety of ways of supplying hay that keeps it free from being soiled by manure or dirt.
  - Bedding has to be certified organic and clarification that all feed has to be certified organic so that producers cannot use non-organic plant material as bedding with the potential that cows will eat it.
  - Clarification that carriers in feed supplements and additives must be organic if they are agricultural ingredients.
- Clear definitions for graze, grazing, crop and dry matter-- perhaps we also need a definition of grazing season.
- Pasture must be managed as a crop which, with the new definition of a crop, ties into the need to actively manage pastures.
- Maintaining year round access to clean water, indoors and outside. This may appear to be common sense, and is, but inspections for non-compliance have shown that this language needs to be included
- The organic systems plan must contain a comprehensive management plan for pasture. This plan must show the location and type of fence, the location of shade and the provision of water which will be a useful tool for certification inspectors to judge whether there is sufficient infrastructure for all the livestock to graze, not just a portion of the herd. That plan can be re-submitted annually if no changes have been made.

continued on page 18

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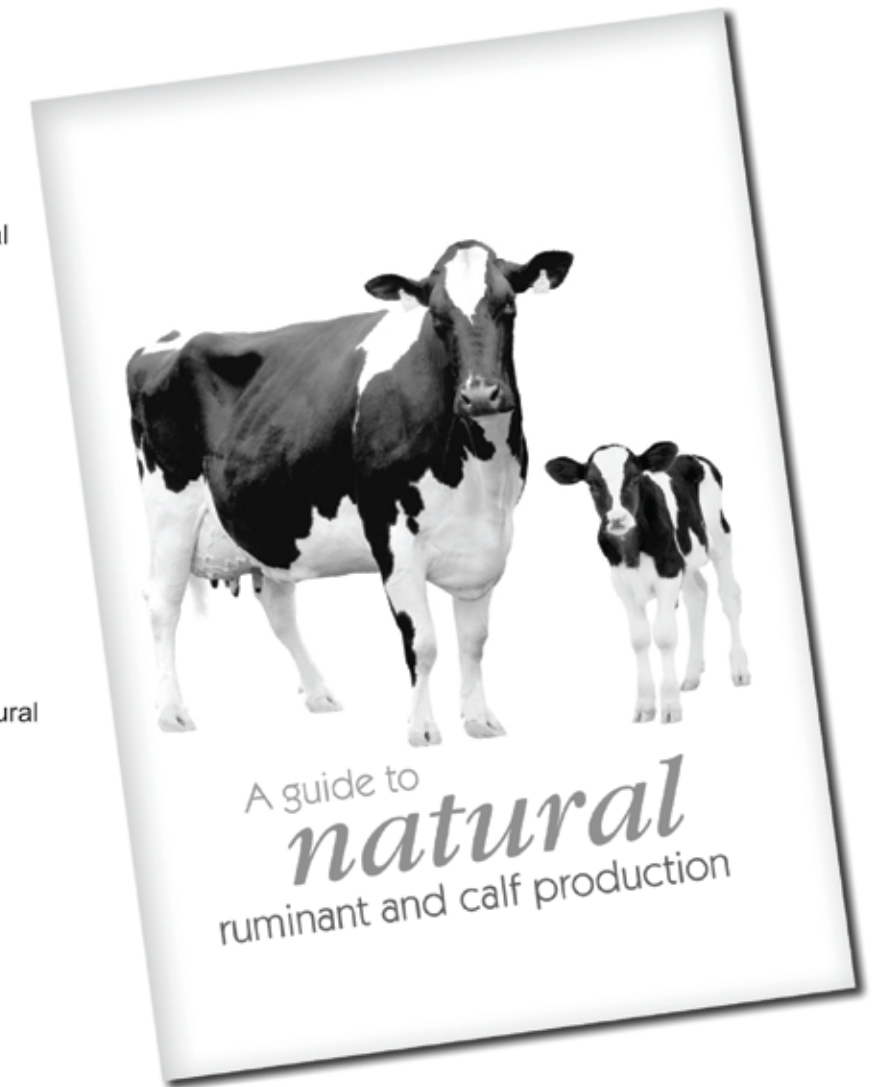
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ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

National Organic Program Regulatory Text Livestock Sections Updated to Include October 24, 2008 Proposed Pasture Rule

In the pasture rule below, copy that is struck through is DELETED content. Copy that appears in bold italic is NEW content.

We would like to acknowledge Pat Kane and Emily Brown Rosen of the Accredited Certifiers Association for their efforts in putting this document together.

Title 7: Agriculture  
PART 205  
Authority: 7 U.S.C. 6501–6522.  
Source: 65 FR 80637, Dec. 21, 2000, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Definitions

§ 205.1 Meaning of words.

For the purpose of the regulations in this subpart, words in the singular form shall be deemed to impart the plural and vice versa, as the case may demand.

§ 205.2 Terms defined.

\*\*\*  
***Agricultural inputs.*** All substances or materials used in the production or handling of organic agricultural products. Agricultural product. Any agricultural commodity or product, whether raw or processed, including any commodity or product derived from livestock, that is marketed in the United States for human or livestock consumption.

\*\*\*\*  
***AMDUCA.*** The Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103–396). Animal drug. Any drug as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended (21 U.S.C. 321), that is intended for use in livestock, including any drug intended for use in livestock feed but not including such livestock feed.

\*\*\*\*  
***Biologics.*** All viruses, serums, toxins, and analogous products of natural or synthetic origin, such as diagnostics, antitoxins, vaccines, live microorganisms, killed microorganisms, and the antigenic or immunizing components of microorganisms intended for use in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of diseases of animals.

***Breeder stock.*** Female livestock whose offspring may be incorporated into an organic operation at the time of their birth.

***Buffer zone.*** An area located between a certified production operation or portion of a production operation and an adjacent land area that is not maintained under organic management. A buffer zone must be sufficient in size or other features (e.g., windbreaks or a diversion ditch) to prevent the possibility of unintended contact by prohibited substances applied to adjacent land areas with an area that is part of a certified operation.

\*\*\*\*  
~~***Crop.*** A plant or part of a plant intended to be marketed as an agricultural product or fed to livestock.~~

***Crop.*** Pastures, sod, cover crops, green manure crops, catch crops, and any plant or part of a plant intended to be marketed as an agricultural product,

*fed to livestock, or used in the field to manage nutrients and soil fertility.*  
\*\*\*\*

***Dry matter.*** The amount of a feedstuff remaining after all the free moisture is evaporated out.

***Dry lot.*** A confined area that may be covered with concrete, but that has no vegetative cover.

\*\*\*\*  
Excipients. Any ingredients that are intentionally added to livestock medications but do not exert therapeutic or diagnostic effects at the intended dosage, although they may act to improve product delivery (e.g., enhancing absorption or controlling release of the drug substance). Examples of such ingredients include fillers, extenders, diluents, wetting agents, solvents, emulsifiers, preservatives, flavors, absorption enhancers, sustained-release matrices, and coloring agents. Feed. Edible materials which are consumed by livestock for their nutritional value. Feed may be concentrates (grains) or roughages (hay, silage, fodder). The term, “feed,” encompasses all agricultural commodities, including pasture ingested by livestock for nutritional purposes. Feed additive. A substance added to feed in micro quantities to fulfill a specific nutritional need; i.e., essential nutrients in the form of amino acids, vitamins, and minerals.

***Feedlot.*** A confined area for the controlled feeding of ruminants.

***Feed supplement.*** A combination of feed nutrients added to livestock feed to improve the nutrient balance or performance of the total ration and intended to be:

- (1) Diluted with other feeds when fed to livestock;
- (2) Offered free choice with other parts of the ration if separately available; or
- (3) Further diluted and mixed to produce a complete feed.

\*\*\*\*  
***Field.*** An area of land identified as a discrete unit within a production operation.

***Forage.*** Vegetative material in a fresh, dried, or ensiled state (pasture, hay, or silage), which is fed to livestock.

*continued on page 10*



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**From all the folks at  
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ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

Complete Revised Pasture Rule

*continued from page 8*

**Governmental entity.** Any domestic government, tribal government, or foreign governmental subdivision providing certification services.

**Graze.** (1) *The consumption of standing forage by livestock.* (2) *To put livestock to feed on standing forage.*

**Grazing.** *To graze.*

**Growing season.** *The period of time between the average date of the last killing frost in the spring to the average date of the first killing frost in the fall or early winter in the local area of production. This represents a temperature threshold of 28 degrees Fahrenheit (-3.9 degrees Celsius) or lower at a frequency of 5 years in 10. Growing season may range from 121 days to 365 days.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Inclement weather.** *Weather that is violent, or characterized by temperatures (high or low), that can kill or cause permanent physical harm to a given species of livestock.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Killing frost.** *A frost that takes place at temperatures between 25 degrees and 28 degrees Fahrenheit (-2.2 and -3.9 degrees Celsius) for a period sufficiently severe to end the growing season or delay its beginning.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Livestock.** Any cattle, sheep, goat, swine, poultry, or equine animals used for food or in the production of food, fiber, feed, or other agricultural-based consumer products; wild or domesticated game; or other nonplant life, except such term shall not include aquatic animals or bees for the production of food, fiber, feed, or other agricultural-based consumer products.

**Livestock.** *Any bee, cattle, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, equine animals used for food or in the production of food, fiber, feed, or other agricultural-based consumer products; fish used for food; wild or domesticated game; or other nonplant life.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Pasture.** Land used for livestock grazing that is managed to provide feed value and maintain or improve soil, water, and vegetative resources.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Routine use of parasiticide.** The regular, planned, or periodic use of parasiticides.

**Sacrificial pasture.** *A pasture or pastures within the pasture system, of sufficient size to accommodate all animals in the herd without crowding, where animals are kept for short periods during saturated soil conditions to confine pasture damage to an area where potential environmental impacts can be controlled. This pasture is then deferred from grazing until it has been restored through active pasture management. Sacrificial pastures are located where soils have good trafficability, are well-drained, have low risk of soil erosion, have low or no potential of manure runoff, are surrounded by vegetated areas, and are easily restored. A sacrificial pasture is land used for livestock grazing*

*continued on next page*

*that is managed to provide feed value and maintain or improve soil, water, and vegetative resources; it is not a dry lot or feedlot.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Temporary and Temporarily.** *Occurring for a limited time only (e.g., overnight, throughout a storm, during a period of illness, the period of time specified by the Administrator when granting a temporary variance), not permanent or lasting.*

\*\*\*\*\*

[65 FR 80637, Dec. 21, 2000, as amended at 72 FR 70484, Dec. 12, 2007]

**§ 205.102 Use of the term, “organic.”**

Any agricultural product that is sold, labeled, or represented as “100 percent organic,” “organic,” or “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))” must be:

(a) Produced in accordance with the requirements specified in §205.101 or §§205.202 through 205.207 or §§205.236 through 205.239 and all other applicable requirements of part 205; and

(a) *Produced in accordance with the requirements specified in § 205.101 or §§ 205.202 through 205.207 or §§ 205.236 through 205.239 205.240 and all other applicable requirements of part 205; and*

(b) Handled in accordance with the requirements specified in §205.101 or §§205.270 through 205.272 and all other applicable requirements of this part 205.

**§ 205.236 Origin of livestock.**

(a) Livestock products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic must be from livestock under continuous organic management from the last third of gestation or hatching: Except, That:

- (1) Poultry. Poultry or edible poultry products must be from poultry that has been under continuous organic management beginning no later than the second day of life;
- (2) Dairy animals. Milk or milk products must be from animals that have been under continuous organic management beginning no later than 1 year prior to the production of the milk or milk products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic, *Except,*
- (i) That, crops and forage from land, included in the organic system plan of a dairy farm, that is in the third year of organic management may be consumed by the dairy animals of the farm during the 12-month period immediately prior to the sale of organic milk and milk products; and
- (ii) That, when an entire, distinct herd is converted to organic production, the producer may, provided no milk produced under this subparagraph enters the stream of commerce labeled as organic after June 9, 2007: (a) For the first 9 months of the year, provide a minimum of 80-percent feed that is either organic or raised from land included in the organic system plan and managed in compliance with organic crop requirements; and (b) Provide feed in compliance with §205.237 for the final 3 months.
- (iii) *Once an entire, distinct herd has been converted to organic production, all dairy animals shall be under organic management from the last third of gestation:*
- (iii) *Once an operation has been certified for organic production using the exception in paragraph (a)(2)(i) or (ii) of this section, all dairy animals brought onto the operation shall be under organic management from the last third of gestation.*
- (3) Breeder stock. Livestock used as breeder stock may be brought
- continued on page 12*



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ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

Complete Revised Pasture Rule

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- from a nonorganic operation onto an organic operation at any time: Provided, That, if such livestock are gestating and the offspring are to be raised as organic livestock, the breeder stock must be brought onto the facility no later than the last third of gestation.
- (b) The following are prohibited:
- (1) Livestock or edible livestock products that are removed from an organic operation and subsequently managed on a nonorganic operation may be not sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced.
  - (2) Breeder or dairy stock that has not been under continuous organic management since the last third of gestation may not be sold, labeled, or represented as organic slaughter stock.
- (c) The producer of an organic livestock operation must maintain records sufficient to preserve the identity of all organically managed animals and edible and nonedible animal products produced on the operation.
- [65 FR 80637, Dec. 21, 2000, as amended at 71 FR 32807, June 7, 2006]
- § 205.237 Livestock feed.**
- ~~(a) The producer of an organic livestock operation must provide livestock with a total feed ration composed of agricultural products, including pasture and forage, that are organically produced and, if applicable, organically handled. Except, That, nonsynthetic substances and synthetic substances allowed under §205.603 may be used as feed additives and supplements.~~
- (a) The producer of an organic livestock operation must provide livestock with a total feed ration composed of agricultural products, including pasture and forage, that are organically produced by operations certified to the NOP, except as provided in § 205.236(a)(i)), and, if applicable, organically handled by operations certified to the NOP: Except, That, synthetic substances allowed under § 205.603 and non-synthetic substances may be used as feed additives and supplements, Provided, That, all agricultural ingredients in such additives and supplements shall have been produced and handled organically.*
- (b) The producer of an organic operation must not:
- (1) Use animal drugs, including hormones, to promote growth;
  - (2) Provide feed supplements or additives in amounts above those needed for adequate nutrition and health maintenance for the species at its specific stage of life;
  - (3) Feed plastic pellets for roughage;
  - (4) Feed formulas containing urea or manure;
  - ~~(5) Feed mammalian or poultry slaughter by-products to mammals or poultry; or~~
  - (5) Feed mammalian or poultry slaughter by-products to mammals or poultry;*
  - ~~(6) Use feed, feed additives, and feed supplements in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;~~
  - (6) Use feed, feed additives, and feed supplements in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act;*
  - (7) Provide feed or forage to which anyone, at anytime, has added an antibiotic; or*

- (8) Prevent, withhold, restrain, or otherwise restrict ruminant animals from actively obtaining feed grazed from pasture during the growing season, except for conditions as described under § 205.239(c).*
- (c) During the growing season, producers shall provide not more than an average of 70 percent of a ruminant’s dry matter demand from dry matter fed (dry matter fed does not include dry matter grazed from vegetation rooted in pasture). Producers shall, once a month, on a monthly basis:
- (1) Document each feed ration (i.e., for each type of animal, each class of animal’s intended daily diet showing all ingredients, daily pounds of each ingredient per animal, each ingredient’s percentage of the total ration, the dry matter percentage for each ingredient, and the dry matter pounds for each ingredient);
  - (2) Document the daily dry matter demand of each class of animal using the formula:  
$$\text{Average Weight/Animal (lbs)} \times .03 = \text{lbs DM/Head/Day} \times \text{Number of Animals} = \text{Total DM Demand in lbs/Day};$$
  - (3) Document how much dry matter is fed daily to each class of animal; and
  - (4) Document the percentage of dry matter fed daily to each class of animal using the formula:  
$$(\text{DM Fed} \div \text{DM Demand in lbs/day}) \times 100 = \% \text{ DM Fed}.$$
- § 205.238 Livestock health care practice standard.**
- (a) The producer must establish and maintain preventive livestock health care practices, including:
- (1) Selection of species and types of livestock with regard to suitability for site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent diseases and parasites;
  - (2) Provision of a feed ration sufficient to meet nutritional requirements, including vitamins, minerals, protein and/or amino acids, fatty acids, energy sources, and fiber (ruminants);
  - (3) Establishment of appropriate housing, pasture conditions, and sanitation practices to minimize the occurrence and spread of diseases and parasites;
  - (4) Provision of conditions which allow for exercise, freedom of movement, and reduction of stress appropriate to the species;
  - (5) Performance of physical alterations as needed to promote the animal’s welfare and in a manner that minimizes pain and stress; and
  - (6) Administration of vaccines and other veterinary biologics.
- (b) When preventive practices and veterinary biologics are inadequate to prevent sickness, a producer may administer synthetic medications: Provided, That, such medications are allowed under §205.603. Parasitcides allowed under §205.603 may be used on:
- (1) Breeder stock, when used prior to the last third of gestation but not during lactation for progeny that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced; and
  - (2) Dairy stock, when used a minimum of 90 days prior to the production of milk or milk products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic.
- (c) The producer of an organic livestock operation must not:
- (1) Sell, label, or represent as organic any animal or edible product derived from any animal treated with antibiotics, any substance that contains a synthetic substance not allowed under §205.603, or any substance that contains a nonsynthetic substance prohibited in §205.604.
  - (2) Administer any animal drug, other than vaccinations, in the
- continued on page 14

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ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Complete Revised Pasture Rule

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absence of illness;

(3) Administer hormones for growth promotion;

(4) Administer synthetic parasiticides on a routine basis;

(5) Administer synthetic parasiticides to slaughter stock;

(6) Administer animal drugs in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; or

(7) Withhold medical treatment from a sick animal in an effort to preserve its organic status. All appropriate medications must be used to restore an animal to health when methods acceptable to organic production fail. Livestock treated with a prohibited substance must be clearly identified and shall not be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced.

§ 205.239 Livestock living conditions.

(a) The producer of an organic livestock operation must establish and maintain livestock living conditions which accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals, including:

(a) The producer of an organic livestock operation must establish and maintain year-round livestock living conditions which accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals, including those listed in

paragraphs (a)(1) through (a)(3) of this section. Further, producers shall not prevent, withhold, restrain, or otherwise restrict animals from being outdoors, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) and (c) of this section. Producers shall also provide:

- (1) Access to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air, and direct sunlight suitable to the species, its stage of production, the climate, and the environment;
- (1) Year-round access for all animals to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air, water for drinking (indoors and outdoors), and direct sunlight, suitable to the species, its stage of life, the climate, and the environment.
- (2) Access to pasture for ruminants;
- (2) For all ruminants, continuous yearround management on pasture, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of this section, for:
- (i) Grazing throughout the growing season; and
- (ii) Access to the outdoors throughout the year, including during the non-growing season. Dry lots and feedlots are prohibited.
- (3) Appropriate clean, dry bedding. If the bedding is typically consumed by the animal species, it must comply with the feed requirements of §205.237;
- (3) Appropriate clean, dry bedding. When hay, straw, ground cobs, or other crop matter typically fed to the animal species is used as bedding, it must comply with the feed requirements of § 205.237.
- (4) Shelter designed to allow for:
- (i) Natural maintenance, comfort behaviors, and opportunity to exercise;
- (ii) Temperature level, ventilation, and air circulation suitable to the species; and

continued on next page

- (iii) Reduction of potential for livestock injury;
- (b) The producer of an organic livestock operation may provide temporary confinement for an animal because of:
- (b) The producer of an organic livestock operation may temporarily deny a nonruminant animal access to the outdoors because of:
- (1) Inclement weather;
- (2) The animal's stage of production;
- (2) The animal's stage of life;
- (3) Conditions under which the health, safety, or well being of the animal could be jeopardized; or
- (4) Risk to soil or water quality.
- (c) The producer of an organic livestock operation may temporarily deny a ruminant animal pasture under the following conditions:
- (1) When the animal is segregated for treatment of illness or injury (the various life stages, such as lactation, are not an illness or injury);
- (2) One week prior to parturition (birthing), parturition, and up to one week after parturition;
- (3) In the case of newborns for up to six months, after which they must be on pasture and may no longer be individually housed;
- (4) In the case of goats, during periods of inclement weather;
- (5) In the case of sheep, for short periods for shearing; and
- (6) In the case of dairy animals, for short periods daily for milking. Milking must be scheduled in a manner to ensure sufficient grazing time to provide each animal with an average dry matter intake from grazing of not less than 30 percent throughout the growing season. Milking frequencies or duration practices cannot be used to deny dairy animals pasture.

(d) Ruminants must be provided with:

- (1) A lying area with well-maintained clean, dry bedding, which complies with paragraph (a)(3) of this section, during periods of temporary housing, provided due to temporary denial of pasture during conditions listed in paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(5) of this section;
- (2) Yards and passageways kept in good condition and well-drained;
- (3) Shade and in the case of goats, shelter open on at least one side;
- (4) Water at all times except during short periods for milking or sheering--such water must be protected from fouling;
- (5) Feeding and watering equipment that are designed, constructed, and placed to protect from fouling--such equipment must be cleaned weekly; and
- (6) In the case of newborns, hay in a rack off the ground, beginning 7 days after birth, unless on pasture, and pasture for grazing in compliance with § 205.240(a) not later than six months after birth.
- (e) The producer of an organic livestock operation must manage manure in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, heavy metals, or pathogenic organisms and optimizes recycling of nutrients.
- (f) The producer of an organic livestock operation must manage outdoor access areas, including pastures, in a manner that does not put soil or water quality at risk; this includes the use of fences and buffer zones to prevent ruminants and their waste products from entering ponds, streams, and other bodies of water. Buffer zone size shall be extensive enough, in full consideration of the physical features of the site, to prevent the waste products of ruminants from entering ponds, streams, and other bodies of water.

§205.240 Pasture practice standard.

The producer of an organic livestock operation must, for all ruminant livestock on the operation, demonstrate through auditable records in the

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## ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

**Complete Revised Pasture Rule***continued from page 15**organic system plan, a functioning management plan for pasture that meets all requirements of §§ 205.200 - 205.240.**(a) Pasture must be managed as a crop in full compliance with §§ 205.200 through 205.206.**(b) The producer must develop and annually update a comprehensive pasture plan for inclusion in the producer's organic system plan. When there is no change to the previous year's comprehensive pasture plan the certified operation may resubmit the previous year's comprehensive pasture plan.**(c) The comprehensive pasture plan must include a detailed description of:*

- (1) Crops to be grown in the pasture and haymaking system;*
- (2) Cultural practices, including but not limited to varying the crops and their maturity dates in the pasture system, to be used to ensure pasture of a sufficient quality and quantity is available to graze throughout the growing season and to provide all ruminants under the organic systems plan with an average of not less than 30 percent of their dry matter intake from grazing throughout the growing season;*
- (3) The haymaking system;*
- (4) The location of pasture and haymaking fields, including maps showing the pasture and haymaking system and giving each field its own identity;*
- (5) The types of grazing methods to be used in the pasture system;*
- (6) The location and types of fences and the location and source of shade and water;*
- (7) The soil fertility, seeding, and crop rotation systems;*
- (8) The pest, weed, and disease control practices;*

- (9) The erosion control and protection of natural wetlands, riparian areas, and soil and water quality practices;*
- (10) Pasture and soil sustainability practices; and*
- (11) Restoration of pastures practices.*

*(d) The pasture system must include a sacrificial pasture, for grazing, to protect the other pastures from excessive damage during periods when saturated soil conditions render the pasture(s) too wet for animals to graze. The sacrificial pasture must be:*

- (1) Sufficient in size to accommodate all animals in the herd without crowding;*
- (2) Located where:*
  - (i) Soils have good trafficability;*
  - (ii) Well-drained;*
  - (iii) There is a low risk of soil erosion;*
  - (iv) There is low or no potential of manure runoff;*
  - (v) Surrounded by vegetated areas; and*
  - (vi) Easily restored.*
- (3) Managed to:*
  - (i) Provide feed value; and*
  - (ii) Maintain or improve soil, water, and vegetative resources.*
- (4) Restored through active pasture management.*

*(e) In addition to the above, producers must manage pasture to comply with all applicable requirements of §§ 205.236 - 205.239.*

§§ 205.240-(241)-205.269 [Reserved]

Miscellaneous: § 205.690 OMB control number.

The control number assigned to the information collection requirements in this part by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, is OMB number 0581-0181.0581-0191.

§§ 205.691-205.699 [Reserved] ♦

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ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS

Access to Pasture: The Details

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As federal rulemaking is a long and cumbersome process, the USDA NOP has taken the opportunity with this rule to clean up areas that have been subject to compliance issues. The proposed rule has a section on the Origin of livestock - 205.236(iii). Richard Mathews, Chief of the National Organic Program Standards Development and Review Branch, remarked at the USDA Listening session on October 28th, 2008 that he would not have included this if he'd known it would take so long to publish the pasture rule. It was originally included because of the changes caused by the Harvey lawsuit but if enough comments are received asking for its removal from this rule, it will be removed as NOP is already working on a proposed origin of livestock rule that will be a comprehensive rulemaking. The inclusion of it in this rule will give the community an opportunity to provide comments and data to support its arguments for a clear definition for replacements to be certified organic from last third of gestation, which is the case for all other ruminants.

Some other areas where there is concern and language may need to be tweaked or changed are:

- The definition of growing season. The definition may need to include something to factor in the dormant period that plants may have in warm climates and for those areas that have long periods of rain.
- Inclement weather will need to be broadened to capture more livestock and / or soil unfriendly weather conditions. The definition might need to be amended to take into account “temporary” rather than permanent physical harm (cows splitting their legs when trying to walk on ice). Within the present rule there is no provision for ruminants to be denied access to the outdoors in inclement weather, only non-ruminants. This might need to be extended to give the exemption to ruminants as well during inclement weather, with a realistic level of risk to livestock and soil/pasture damage

**The proposed rule clearly states that pasture has to be managed as a crop and that farmers shall provide “year round access for all animals to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas...” and during the growing season, farmers shall provide not more than 70% of cow’s diet from fed feeds and at least 30% from pasture. Growing season is defined as from the last killing frost in the spring to the first killing frost in the fall or early winter.**

- rather than just a small amount of rain or no fencing or farm personnel on vacation being used as an excuse.
- Sacrifice pasture has raised a lot of different questions, even from experienced graziers. As a temporary measure, a sacrificial pasture can be used very effectively as part of the organic system plan and out-wintering on sacrificial pasture is being successfully used on some farms, primarily seasonal dairies.


However, a large proportion of farms either do not have soils meeting the parameters laid out for sacrificial pasture, do not have wintertime access to such fields, have rainy seasons that more than saturate even the best drained fields, or have a farm where such a system would violate their comprehensive nutrient management plan. We will need to work on how to cover this to ensure there is no harm to soil and water quality and long term damage to the land. Many producers are already working with these issues as part of their NRCS nutrient management plan.

- Measuring dry matter fed– there are plenty of questions about measuring and calculating the amount of dry matter fed that will not be burdensome to the producer but can accurately reflect what the livestock are eating – some different ways are at: [http://nodpa.com/CommentsToNOP/FOOD\\_Farmers\\_pasture\\_measurement\\_committee\\_report\\_8\\_14\\_07.pdf](http://nodpa.com/CommentsToNOP/FOOD_Farmers_pasture_measurement_committee_report_8_14_07.pdf). The use of .03 (3%) of bodyweight as a base for calculating dry matter needs per animal per day is not a good fit for all classes and kinds of animals. It might be better to have several ways of calculating dry matter requirements by using charts, % body weight tables, or nutritionist’s ration sheets. It is important to figure rations for a mature animal based on the size and production average of the whole class of livestock, i.e. milking herd, dry cows, etc., rather than just one animal who may not be representative.
- The use of barns, barnyards and well managed outside feeding areas are common in the non growing season and during the growing season for supplementing pasture intake. We need to make sure barnyards or outside feeding areas are available when soil, water quality, animal health and/or humane treatment of

- livestock are compromised in a pasture setting.
- Record keeping and language around livestock having clean water available and that all feeding equipment needs to be cleaned weekly might need to be simplified to a stipulation that feeding and watering equipment must be kept clean or cleaned appropriately if that language is felt to be enforceable.
- Fencing of buffer zones will be an added cost to some producers but does represent required improvements in conservation and nutrient management plans. Initial fencing may be as simple as a single strand of electric fencing which can be improved over a period of time either with NRCS cost share or farm income. This requirement does not limit prescribed stream crossing or other NRCS practices. The NOSB’s strong past support for biodiversity conservation reflects the long-held understanding of the organic community that the protection of natural resources and biodiversity is a central tenet of organic production practices and this rule needs to reflect that sentiment.
- The rule does not include an exemption from pasture for finishing organic beef in a feedlot. Beef

have never had an exemption from pasture but the “stage of production” exemption has been used by some producers to enable feedlot feeding. “Stage of production” has been changed to “stage of life” and is only applicable to non-ruminant animals under the proposed rule. The NOSB had recommended a 120 day exemption from pasture for beef.

We hope that this article is a reasonable analysis of the proposed rule. We see this as a work in progress involving many partners and organizations which will culminate in detailed commenting on the rule by December 23rd 2008. We will work closely with certifiers to ensure that any suggested language can be incorporated into annual inspections. Our comments will give data, both anecdotal and independent, to enable the NOP to justify any changes to the reviewing bodies in the federal rulemaking system. Any suggested language will be provided within the context of the whole rule, so that each section is consistent with the other. This is a great opportunity for the organic dairy community to work with the NOP to have a strong rule that can be implemented without resource to lawsuits, or the threat of them. We owe it to producers and consumers to get this right. ♦



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## ORGANIC PRODUCTION

## The proposed rule: How does it fit on your farm?

*continued from page 5*

milkling herd. If I just considered the grazing that occurs within the time period as defined in the rule, our percentage would be higher because I wouldn't be averaging in the shoulders of the season when we get less pasture intake.

The fact that the proposed rule requires 30% DMI from pasture for all ruminants 6 months of age and older will require some farms to ramp up their heifer grazing systems—while their heifers may be on pasture, the youngstock may not be achieving 30% or more DMI from pasture.

This new standard will not necessitate change for us as we keep all of our animals on pasture during the grazing season but what will be time consuming and a new task for us will be the requirement in the proposed rule to document the dry matter demand of each class of animal on a monthly basis as well as document what they are fed. With the makeup of youngstock groups on most farms, changeable over time in terms of bodyweight (as animals grow over the season), it may be challenging to determine and verify each group's dry matter intake demands and this documentation requirement will undoubtedly cause some angst.

Daily documenting of what the milking herd is fed is something we already do and a monthly check for certification purposes will not be an added task as I am doing it once a month for DHI records. I expect this should not be a burden to farmers and is a part of good management practices.

## The challenges of year round management of livestock on pasture

The stipulation in this proposed rule for year round management of livestock on pasture will be very problematic for a large share of farms, including ours. Our problem begins with having steep ascent / descent out of and into our barnyard which would be a safety issue for cows walking on it when covered in snow—as it would soon turn to ice with the passing of enough hooves. Even if they could get to the pastures, we have limited acres that are well drained, but even they would get muddied up and the stand damaged by cows spending time on them during the non-growing season.

These well drained fields also happen to be our highest fertility fields, being they were the only fields accessible for winter spreading of manure before we put in manure storage facilities.

If the cows were laying and feeding on them all winter long, they would grow even higher in fertility and then we wouldn't have that manure in storage to transport to our low fertility fields when they are accessible for spreading during the growing season.

We also would not be able to provide water for the cows on pasture in the winter as the pasture water system is not freeze proof. And because our herd is milking year round, being out on pasture in the winter could lead to issues like frostbite and milk quality issues because of exposure to mud.

There are some farms that are successfully using sacrifice pastures during the non growing season, but they are mostly seasonal herds with amenable farmsteads and land. Most farms will find year round management on pastures to be detrimental to the health of their pastures, out of compliance with their farm's nutrient management plans, and not in the best interest of their animal's welfare.

## When the snow fell in October: A real life example

When I came home from Auburn, NY on the afternoon of the USDA Listening Session on October 28, I found our farm under a few inches of wet, heavy snow. We went right to work bringing the calves off pasture and into a shelter for those still on milk and moved the weaned calves into another pasture where they had access to a bedpack shelter.

The next day, our older heifers and dry cows were brought off the hill that was under even more snow, and put in their winter housing area where we feed baleage on a concrete pad and where they have free access to a freestall barn and a loafing area. A few days later, the snow had melted and a few of the pastures were dry enough that the dry cows, older heifers, and the milking cows could go back out on pasture again until the weather turns foul once more and winter weather is here for good or the pasture runs out, whichever happens first.

Had we had to keep them all out on pasture during this early snowfall time period, the pastures would have received significant damage, as well as the pasture water system was likely frozen for a good share of the time. The cows too, were very eager to leave that environment and come in where they didn't have to root under the snow to find food.

We are able to provide outdoor access in the non-grazing season for our milking cows but that access is on an NRCS designed concrete barnyard where the waste and runoff flows right into the manure storage, where the cows have access to free choice hay and minerals and access to a heated waterer. Some farms in colder climates than ours are unable to always provide daily outdoor access because they get far more extreme cold temperatures and icing conditions—both of

which can jeopardize the health and safety of the animals.

There will need to be adjustment in the proposed rule regarding outdoor access to ensure that farmers can appropriately take care of their animals during inclement weather and the non growing season to ensure that the health and safety of animals is given due regard as well as not causing risk to soil and water quality or damage to pastures. Some of the proscriptive nature of the proposed rule beyond the pasture requirement during the growing season is best to be melted away to let each farmer make the best management decisions for their own farm environment and animals.

## Bedding requirements

Another area addressed in the proposed rule is bedding, requiring that all straw, corn cobs, hay or other plant matter used for bedding be certified organic. There will be some farms that will have to change their purchasing habits and switch to buying certified organic bedding material--that will bring them in line with what most farmers have already been doing. It will also help those organic farmers who have been selling their organic straw into the conventional market because there was no demand for it from organic farms. It's also another small area that increases the integrity of the system so there can't be inadvertent eating of non-organic plant material by livestock.

### Why the rewrite of the rule is necessary

If all operations could be counted on to follow the spirit and intent of the current organic standards as well as the actual letter of the regulations, it wouldn't be necessary to be going through this re-write of the rule. However, that has clearly not been shown to be the case and we need to ensure the long term confidence of the consumer in the integrity of organic dairy. A rule that will require real pasture of all organic dairy operations is a must and will bring value added benefit to producers.

It is not easy in any sense of the word to rewrite this rule to close all the loopholes yet not make things unworkable on some levels. My hat is off to Richard Mathews for working so diligently on writing this rule and for recognizing that changes will be needed before it becomes a final rule. Many times, both in the preamble to the proposed rule and at the 10/28 Listening Session, Richard invited comments and asked for suggested wording to move this to a final rule. We need to provide constructive comments and direction. The rule needs to require real grazing of organic livestock yet allow farmers to best determine the non grazing season management of their animals for the health and welfare of both the livestock and the land. ♦

*Kathie Arnold farms in central NY with her husband and his brother. She can be reached at randkarnold1@juno.com or 607/842-6631.*

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INDUSTRY NEWS

NODPA’s 8th Annual Field Days and Producer Meeting

By Ed Maltby

NODPA’s 8th Annual Field Days and annual meeting were held in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York from Sunday, October 26 to Tuesday, October 28th. Sixteen members of the NODPA Board and State Reps held a meeting on Sunday to look at NODPA’s role over the next five years and how to build an infrastructure for the future to achieve these goals. In the evening the Board held elections for NODPA officers: Henry Perkins was elected President; Rick Segalla as Vice President; Dave Johnson as Treasurer; and Liz Bawden as Secretary.

Kathie Arnold welcomed attendees on Monday morning and introduced Clark Driftmier, President of the Fairhaven Strategy Group, who presented on “Organic Dairy Industry-Trends and Perspectives.” With over 25 years of management experience in the natural and organic products industry, Clark was able to give his views on the future of the organic retail market and the need for a unified approach to solving the difficulties and problems in the organic dairy market. His presentation was positive on the future for organics and he shared many useful insights including, “Why retailers love store brands”; the segmentation of the organic dairy market; and the three different types of shoppers. While growth of the organic industry is not estimated to be at such a high percentage as in previous years, the industry still expects double digit growth to increase gross sales from its current \$20 billion to \$40 billion by 2013.

Clark’s presentation was followed by a farmer panel of Roman Stoltzfoos (PA), Darlene Coehoorn (WI), Arden Nelson (CO) and Jerome Walker (LA) who discussed their own challenges in 2008 and their thoughts for the future. A round table discussion followed with the assembled producers who generally agreed that no matter what areas of the country they were farming, inputs were too high and pay price was too low. Before lunch Joe Romano, marketing manager for Green Star Natural Foods

Market in Ithaca, NY, gave a short presentation on the marketing of organic product and the challenges in deciding price points for different products.

After lunch, there was a farm tour of Mary-Howell and Klaas Martens’ farm and Lakeview Organic Grain, LLC. Klaas and Mary-Howell Martens, their three children, Peter, Elizabeth and Daniel, and several employees farm 1,400 acres of organic grains. They have farmed

organically since 1993 and produce corn, soybeans, spelt, wheat, barley, oats, triticale, red kidney beans, edamame and other seed crops. They raise organic replacement heifers, pigs and chickens. The Martens also own and operate Lakeview Organic Grain LLC, an organic feed and seed business in Penn Yan, NY, primarily serving organic dairy farmers throughout New York and northern PA. On the way to the Martens’ farm, attendees stopped to view a field trial of Meristem Kale at Bejo Seeds Farm. Kale is one of the possibilities for farmers who wish to extend fall grazing through the use of annual plantings of brassicas.



Arden Nelson, WODPA V. President, Rick Segalla, NODPA V. President, David Johnson, NODPA Treasurer. Going crazy on the Kale at Bejo Seeds. For more pictures from the Field Days, go to page 24.

At the Martens’ home farm, Klaas discussed soil fertility strategies and crop rotations. The group was met by daughter Elizabeth’s friendly and inquisitive heifers. With the soybean roaster humming away in the background, farmers discussed weed suppression strategies in grain crops and compared problems they encountered this year. On the way back, the group visited some corn fields that had not yet been harvested. Mary-Howell happily reported that the organic grain crops in NY are yielding very well this year.

NODPA’s annual dinner and meeting was held Tuesday evening and featured a short report from Ed Maltby, NODPA Executive Director, and the annual President’s report from Kathie Arnold. Both Steve Morrison and Kathie Arnold were honored with signed and numbered Bonnie Mohr prints in appreciation for their many years of dedication and work for NODPA and organic dairy producers. Steve was President of NODPA from 2001 - 2008 and led the organization from a subset of NOFA Vermont to an independent non-profit that provides an independent voice for producers. He received ‘She’s Got the Look’, a print of Jerseys, in appreciation for his work for NODPA, in the past, present and the future. Kathie was at the inaugural meeting for NODPA and has served the organization as editor of the NODPA News,

NODPA President in 2008, Board member, State Rep and Chair of the Policy Committee, with many hours of detailed work commenting on the organic standards. She received ‘Pride and Joy’, a Holstein cow with calf print, in appreciation for her work and on her retirement as President and from the NODPA Board.

At the Producer meeting that followed the presentations the producers passed the following motions:

1. A fair and sustainable base pay price of \$35 – 70% of parity for conventional milk.
2. To support organic grain price which is now at parity.
3. To issue a statement expressing strong support for the proposed access to pasture rule and for working with FOOD Farmers and other organizations to provide comments that could clarify and improve the rule.
4. To work with WODPA and MODPA to develop a scorecard for certifiers.
5. To work with MODPA and WODPA to develop the logistics and support for producer actions that will highlight the unsustainable pay price.
6. To work with FOOD Farmers to increase producers’ knowledge of their cost of production and to educate consumers on the economic realities of organic dairying and the producer share of the retail dollar.

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Tuesday morning was dedicated to the first official listening session on the proposed Access to Pasture Rule with Richard Mathews, USDA NOP Chief Standards Development & Review Branch. The session was attended by organic dairy farmers from the Northeast, Louisiana, Colorado, and Wisconsin and representatives from the Organic Trade Association, Accredited Certifiers Association, four organic dairy processors, five organic certifiers, and non-profit groups who have been closely following the issue for the last four years. Mr. Mathews spent about an hour presenting a PowerPoint on the proposed rule (see: <http://nodpa.com/rule.shtml> to read it) and shared his reasons for including different language in the rule making. After his presentation he requested comments from the participants, with no restriction on time but with an explanation he might not be able to answer all questions as the publication of the rule made some issues “ex-parte.” For the next two hours, attendees made comments, asked questions and shared their appreciation for Mr. Mathews work on the rule. Producers expressed their appreciation at being able to talk directly with NOP professionals that wrote the rule and to engage in mature conversations with no rhetoric or grandstanding, but friendly discussion on a professional level. The Field Days ended later than scheduled at noon and was followed by the “Understanding Organics: Livestock Management and Health Conference.” ♦

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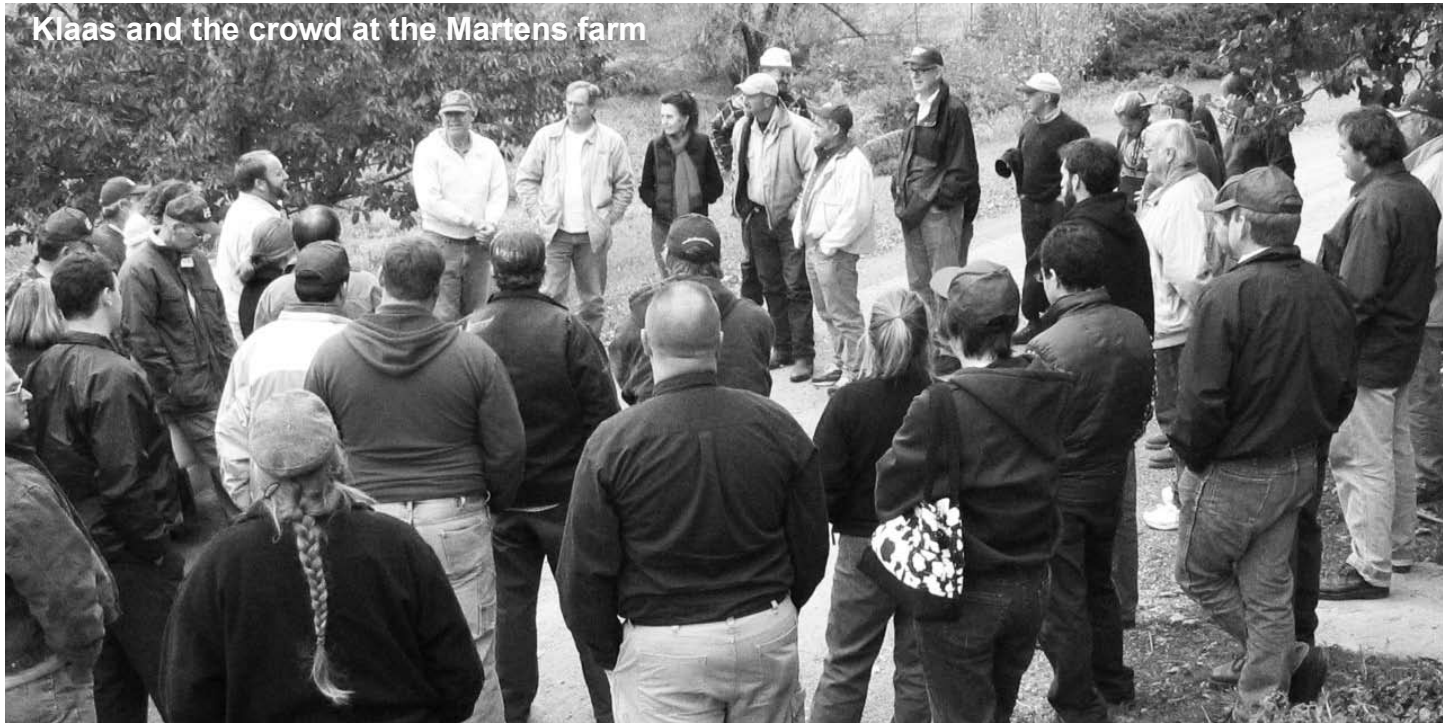
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INDUSTRY NEWS

Klaas and the crowd at the Martens farm



# NODPA Field Days 2008

**Pictures from the Field Days Farm Tour**

Over 50 people joined Klaas and Mary-Howell Martens to learn more about the Marrowstem Kale (Bonanza Variety) trial taking place at Bejo Seeds, take a tour of the Lakeview Organic Grain facility, spend time at the Martens' 1400 acre farm, and visit (and taste!) some of the surrounding corn fields that will be soon harvested for grain.

For more pictures from the Field Days, visit the NODPA web site at [www.nodpa.com/fielddays\\_gallery\\_2008.shtml](http://www.nodpa.com/fielddays_gallery_2008.shtml)



Lisa Engelbert, Nathan Bawden and Elizabeth Martens with one of Elizabeth's heifers.

Elizabeth Martens' heifers coming to check out the field trip visitors.

INDUSTRY NEWS



Lakeview Organic Grain Mill



Richard Mathews getting chewed by Elizabeth Martens' heifer



Rick Segalla, Peter Slaunwhite, the Allen Family, Tom Murphy from Bejo Seeds, Clark Driftmier



Klaas talking about soil health and how quickly earthworms utilize the organic matter left on the top (clover, straw)



Roman Stoltzfoos, Siobahn Griffin and Henry Perkins.

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ORGANIC PRODUCTION: FEATURED FARM

# Amos Nolt: For Organic Dairy, No Grain, No Problem

**Nolt, an Ohio CROPP/Organic Valley member, relies on top forages, barley baleage and chicken manure.**

By Joel McNair

Editor and Publisher of Graze Magazine

**Shiloh, Ohio** — Try, if you will, to poke holes in this formula for an organic, grazing-based dairy in the eastern Corn Belt:

1. **Feed the dairy herd** pasture, dry hay and (in a dry year) baleage for five to six months per year. Calves are the only animals getting grain during this time.
2. **Grow no corn, buy no corn, feed no corn** to milking animals. Invest nothing in corn-specific equipment or infrastructure.
3. **Employ a few daily pounds of barley baleage**, harvested at dough stage, to balance energy and protein needs for six to seven months of total and partial confinement feeding. Harvest and store the barley with your hay making equipment, and employ a vertical mixer in feeding it.
4. **Put most of your crop management effort** into producing as much high-quality pasture and hay/baleage as possible. Purchase no protein supplement.
5. **Ship more than 14,000 pounds of milk** per cow from a Holstein/Ayrshire/Swedish Red-cross herd, with butterfat at 4.0%, protein near 3.1%, and a somatic cell count a bit above 100,000.
6. **Calve 90% of the herd** from late winter through late spring.
7. **Feed a 40-cow milking herd** and replacements from 137 acres, and have some hay to sell most years.
8. **Spend about \$85 per cow on purchased feed**, including salt, minerals and kelp, plus the calf starter.
9. **Smile when the numbers** on the organic milk check dwarf those printed on your bills.

This is Amos Nolt’s formula, and he plans on sticking with it for a while. Never a heavy feeder of supplements, Amos is in his

third year of going without grain during the pasture season, and without corn year-round.

Theoretically, a pound of corn fed at such low levels should yield at least two pounds of milk. But Amos says he wasn’t seeing such results. Back when his herd was primarily Holsteins consuming a lactation average of 10 lbs. of corn per day, the herd peaked at about 16,000 lbs. of milk.

The CROPP/Organic Valley member noticed one Holstein with a 365-day DHIA record above 30,000 pounds had not eaten any grain during the grazing season. Says Amos, “I thought that if she could do it, then why couldn’t the others do it at half the milk?”

As organic corn prices increased, Amos cut the ration back to six pounds. “I told my supplier that if corn goes to six dollars, then the corn can go to pigs and chickens, because I wasn’t going to feed it,” he relates. Organic corn did reach that mark, and for the first 10 months of 2005, Amos says the herd “got along just fine” without any grain at all.

Feeling that some additional energy was needed, Amos started feeding barley baleage in the winter of 2005-2006. Under the new feeding regime last year the herd, now with a large proportion of

Ayrshire blood, averaged 14,200 lbs. of milk shipped, with 570 lbs. of butterfat and 438 lbs. of protein. Compare that to the Nolt herd in 2001, which had far more Holstein genetics and was being fed a lactation average of 10 lbs. of organic corn/head/day along with some protein offered in winter. Those cows averaged 15,048 lbs. of milk sold, 588 lbs. of fat (3.9%), and 440 lbs. of protein (2.9%). (In both years, the herd was milked three times a day for about three weeks in early lactation.) The 2001 production record came with a purchased feed

cost near \$500 per cow, or more than five times the 2006 feed bill.

While this year’s dry weather and a failed experiment with growing spelts has hurt production a bit, Amos is confident that a 14,000-pound herd average from cattle with about the current



genetic profile is easily attainable over the long term. With Swedish Red-cross heifers doing well this year, “I am very confident that I can achieve 15,000 pounds again,” Amos says. While not spectacular, this production level is probably close to the norm for organic dairies, most of which are spending a lot more money to feed their cows.

“I am 100% sure I am not losing one single pound of milk by not feeding corn,” he asserts. The herd average is helped a bit by the fact that Amos culls an average of 25-30% of his herd each year, almost all them sold as dairy animals. Most of these cows are lower producers in his system.

Such a strategy demands topnotch forage management. Milking on this farm since 1996, early on Amos relied heavily upon perennial ryegrass/white clover swards. The 40-cow herd grazed three-acre paddocks on 24-hour intervals in a 14-day rotation.

Primarily in grass before the Nolt’s arrived, this is a well-developed grazing farm with high organic matter soils. Still, summer ryegrass performance was poor, so Amos lately has been tilling and replanting equal amounts of ryegrass, orchardgrass, timothy and reed canarygrass in a 20-pound mix, along with six pounds of white clover. Amos likes to see a 40% clover population in the stand, and tries to lime every four years no matter what the soil test says to promote clover and no-grain milk production. About 80 acres are in pasture.

Instead of giving the cows the entire three acres right away, he now splits the paddocks with temporary wire to offer two acres during

the daylight hours, and removes the wire to provide the remaining area at night. Amos says this has promoted more even grazing and reduced his clipping requirements. Clover stands have improved since he went to a 28-day rotation, Amos says.

Harvested forage also gets plenty of attention here, with dry hay balancing pasture, and baleage wrapped in in-line tubes fed largely in winter, late fall and early spring. Amos doesn’t test his forages, instead relying on his experience for estimating protein content.

He has been making a greater effort to cut hay earlier. “I definitely make better hay now,” Amos says. The 50 acres devoted to hay production are dominated by red clover. Amos says he saw improved cattle performance when he switched over from alfalfa years ago.

Most years through the grazing season, cows are eating about 10 dry matter pounds of dry hay to supplement an estimated 30 pounds of pasture dry matter intake. With a moderate drought in effect this July, 20 pounds of third-cutting baleage from last year was being substituted for the pasture. During the pasture season the milking herd has been offered salt, kelp, sodium bicarbonate, and a mineral/di-cal mix, although Amos says only the salt mix gets eaten in any quantity (he stopped feeding the mineral/di-cal mix late this summer, and was questioning his \$10/cow annual kelp expenditure).

Chicken manure is another key to making this organic system work. Amos invested in a contract broiler barn on the farm that annu-

*continued on next page*



FEATURED FARM

Amos Nolt Farm

*continued from page 27*

ally finishes six batches, each with 25,000 birds. He says the barn provides a decent return on the investment while requiring about an hour of daily labor. With area poultry producers hiking prices for their litter, Amos can also count some fertilizer savings as a benefit.

He applies two tons per acre to his fields, normally about half from piles and half raw. Pastures usually get two applications timed to stimulate grass growth, one in mid-summer and the other in early fall. Amos tries to apply the litter shortly after the cows have grazed the paddock and hopefully just before a rain. He hasn't seen any rejection when cows return to these paddocks four weeks later.

The chicken litter also provides a boost to his hayfields and annual cropping ground. For instance, Amos says he can harvest 18 bales of 45% moisture barley baleage per acre with the manure, and probably just 10 without it. Six acres of barley is enough to feed the dairy herd for up to seven months.

The barley comes off in early June at dough stage testing at 8.5-9% protein, and he has planted sorghum-sudan grass for a late-season baleage crop, although he's looking at trying something of higher quality next year. Since wet barley attracts flies, Amos aims to open a tube no earlier than October. This also serves to dilute the excess protein while making up for energy shortfalls in fall pasture: Amos said his 2006 barley crop had a Brix reading of 20 at harvest. Indeed, what sold Amos on barley was seeing an unprecedented spike in milk solids when he started feeding it in the fall of 2005.

During the feeding season, the amount of barley in the mixer will vary from three to 12 pounds (as-fed basis), with the ration fed on a covered, drive-by apron in front of headlocks along one side of the bedding pack barn. Barley amounts generally increase proportionally with baleage quality. While the technical rationale is to balance the milk cow ration at around 16-17% protein, the practical matter on this farm is that it's all about the cow pies.

"I just watch the cows' manure," Amos explains. "If it doesn't have a 'dish' center, if it's too loose, I add barley to the ration. I shoot for the perfect patty."

He believes that too many dairy farmers are afraid to manage their cows by such visual observations. "Farmers are taught that feeding cows is computer science that requires the help of dairy nutritionists. There's a lot more money that could be made on the farm if the farmers weren't so afraid to feed their own cows," Amos asserts.

**Amos Nolt is in his third year of going without grain during the pasture season, and without corn year-round. In 2005 he noticed one Holstein with a 365-day DHIA record above 30,000 pounds had not eaten any grain during the grazing season. "I thought that if she could do it, then why couldn't the others do it at half the milk?" He tried it, and the herd "got along just fine" without any grain at all.**

Barley is taken away from the cows at dry-off, and is returned to the ration about a week before calving. Amos aims to feed his best baleage in early spring to encourage as high a milk production peak as possible.

Last spring he learned a lesson about the importance of good early lactation forage when baleage supplies ran short because Amos had grown some spelts on what otherwise would have been hay ground. He didn't get the spelts off at the right time for forage

purposes, so it wasn't dairy quality feed. He opted not to spring for expensive organic soy meal, so milk production suffered. The herd peaked at just 60 pounds, or at least 10 pounds below what Amos thinks he should attain from good forage balanced with barley.

Amos closes the barley tube in early May when warm weather returns. Ideally he would continue feeding some grain through the spring flush to balance the high-protein grass, but he feels that would require going to individual bale wrapping to retain quality in warm weather. Amos owns one-fifth of the in-line wrapper, he isn't willing to invest in another wrapping system, and he doesn't know of anyone in the

area who will wrap individually on a custom basis. For now, at least, dry grassy hay fills the pasture-balancing bill.

He likes the high-moisture barley for a couple of reasons. "It's more digestible," Amos asserts. "You won't see any barley in the manure like you do corn. I think that's why I'm getting enough energy into the cows while feeding at fairly low levels."

The other major benefit to barley is that Amos did not need to buy any equipment to grow it, harvest it or handle it. His haying equipment does the job and, while the investment in his vertical mixer and bale unroller added up to about \$25,000, such equipment would be required for many feed mixing programs.

"I don't think I'll ever feed corn again, because this is just too easy," Amos explains. "I didn't think I could raise my own grain without buying extra equipment, but here I am."

The result is an annual purchased grain and salt/mineral/additive bill around \$85 per cow, with more than half of that cost attributed to the \$1,800 of starter feed for about a dozen calves each year. Compare those purchased feed costs to revenues of more than \$3,000 per cow, and you can understand why Amos Nolt's formula might look attractive to an organic grazier who is disappointed with the percentage of the milk check that is disappearing off the farm. ♦

*This article originally appeared in the October 2007 issue of Graze, a magazine for dairy and livestock producers employing management-intensive grazing. For a free sample copy, call 608-455-3311, e-mail graze@grazeonline.com, or visit www.grazeonline.com.*

ORGANIC INDUSTRY NEWS



NODPA's 1st Southeast Regional Field Day

Arden Landis and his wife Caroline hosted NODPA's first Southeast Regional Field Day at their Green Pastures Farm in Kirkwood, PA on September 18. The Landis' have been farming their 115 grazeable acres since 1995 and currently have 100 milking cows that are milked through a 16 unit swing parlor that they installed in 2000. In 1995, they made the "best decision for our farm" and started the organic certification process and have been shipping organic milk to Horizon Organic since July 1999.

During the Field Day, Arden led a large crowd on a tour of the farm and pastures, followed by a panel of experienced organic dairy producers who discussed pay prices, cost cutting ideas, health issues and diversification. **More photos are available on NODPA's website at [www.nodpa.com/fielddays\\_gallery\\_2008SE.shtml](http://www.nodpa.com/fielddays_gallery_2008SE.shtml)**





ORGANIC PRODUCTION

# Make Your own Herbal Tinctures!

By Harriet Behar

First published in the MOSES Organic Broadcaster, Nov-Dec 2006

Herbal medicine includes the use of many types of preparations made from plants including teas, poultices, and tinctures. Learning herbal medicine is a lifelong journey, but there are many herbal medicines that can be made and used safely by novices. I will not discuss the specific herbal uses in this article, but there is a listing of books on this page which can be a starting place for you to learn more. Instead, I will teach you the basics of how to make herbal tinctures for your own use, in your own home. There is something special about taking the time to learn about the various benefits that these plants offer us, and especially to make them in your own home and sourced from your own land.

Herbal tinctures are used both for human health and for livestock health management. It is fun and interesting to grow or wild harvest the common plants used in tinctures. This is something the whole family can be involved in. You learn to appreciate the many plants naturally growing around us, as well as enjoy growing small patches of any more exotic herbs you may want to tincture. For livestock farmers, as you learn the various qualities of the various herbs, it is fascinating to pay attention to what different herbs your animals eat in the pastures, depending on the time of year and the needs of the animal.

Tinctures are an extract, made by steeping ground-up fresh or dried herb in a liquid (usually alcohol, glycerin, water or olive oil). Depending on the plant, the parts used may be the flowers, the stems, the leaves, the roots or some combination of these items. In this article, when I refer to herbs, it could be any part of the plant.

Alcohol is used most frequently as the liquid in a tincture, since it both extracts most of the desired constituents of the herbs, and works as a highly effective preservative for the finished tincture. The active ingredients in the herb, such as alkaloids, are better

suited to being extracted from the herb in alcohol. Vodka, Brandy, or Grain Alcohol (190 proof, Everclear is one brand name), can be used as the alcohol base. Food grade glycerin can be used in place of alcohol, especially for tinctures used for young children. However, the amount of tincture consumed for each dose is only between 5 and 15 drops, so most people and animals can tolerate alcohol tinctures. Oils are used as the liquid base for specific herbs, such as bloodroot or St. Johnswort. Wines and vinegars have also been used in making tinctures, but

this article will discuss the making of alcohol tinctures, since these are the most common.

Both fresh and dried herbs can be used when making tinctures, with fresh herbs generally making the most potent tincture. In November, most of our green herbs are no longer growing and are resting for the winter (although there is still time to dig medicinal roots!). You can still buy dried herbs now, make tinctures for the winter, and plan to grow or wild harvest the herb for next summer's fresh plant tinctures. Personally, I prefer to make my tinctures from fresh plant matter, rather than dried, but sometimes you do not have a choice. Also, if you want to tincture an herb that does not grow in our region, buying dried herb is the most reasonable solution.

Since when using tinctures you do not consume much of the product, making small amounts (1/2 pints or less) of tincture is fairly easy to do and will not use a lot of plant matter nor alcohol. Whatever part of the

plant you are using will need to be cut up into little pieces. Roots, flower heads and stems can be quite tough, so you may need to use pruning shears or a heavy knife to chop up these fresh herbs. Scissors are just fine for leafy items. Roots should be washed clean, making sure you get off all of the dirt lodged in the tight spots. The above ground parts of the plant do not need to be washed, unless they are dirty. If you are harvesting roots, don't forget to include the very bottom of the stem where it meets the root, since this area sometimes has the active ingredient as well and is considered part of the "crown" of the plant. For dried herbs, you can powder the herbs in a blender or mortar and pestle if you wish.

## Books On Herbal Medicine That I Recommend

**The Herbal Medicine Makers Handbook, A Home Manual**  
By James Green  
Published by The Crossing Press,  
Freedom, CA

**The Herbal Medicine Cabinet, Preparing Natural Remedies at Home**  
By Debra St. Claire  
Published by Celestial Arts Publishing,  
Berkeley, CA

**The Complete Medicinal Herbal**  
By Penelope Ody  
Published by DK Publishing – England

**Making Plant Medicine**  
By Richo Cech  
Published by Horizon Herbs,  
Williams, OR

You should put as much of the herb as possible in a glass jar with a tight fitting lid that will not have direct metal contact with the tincture. The jar should be filled to the top, so if you want to make just a small amount, then use a small jar, not a large jar only filled halfway. If you wish, you can follow the calendar, making the tincture at the new moon, and keep it in the jar until the following new moon. Otherwise, between 15- 30 days should elapse before you strain out the herbs. I have only done one type of herb at a time, and if you want to blend tinctures, you can do this after they are finished.

After you have filled the jars with herb, pour the type of alcohol you wish to use over the herbs, making sure the herb is completely covered. Put the lid on tightly and set in a cool, dark place. Put a label on the jar, with the type of herb, the type of alcohol and the date you started the tincture, to help you keep track of when you may want to strain it out. After 12-24 hours, check the tincture and add more alcohol if some has been soaked up by the herb and the liquid is not completely covering the herb in the jar. There should be about ¼ inch of alcohol above the herb. This is a basic recipe, with some herbs not needing to be completely packed into the jar, some herbs or tinctures better with Everclear or with a lowered alcohol content and best mixed with some water. A listing of Herbal Medicine books at the end of this article can lead you to more specific information.

Every few days, shake the jar of tincture, to encourage the constituents of the plant to release into the alcohol (hence the


need for a tight lid!) After the 15-30 days, then strain out the herbs from the alcohol and bottle the tincture.

There are a variety of ways to "decant" the finished tincture, including straining through a cheesecloth. Any way that you can squeeze out more of the alcohol from the herbs, the better the tincture will be. There are a variety of presses available from home beer and wine making supply companies. I have a stainless steel press that cost about \$70, which holds 1.5 quarts of tincture and is like a very small apple cider press, with a small basket with holes that holds the herb and tincture and flat piece of stainless steel that screws down into this slotted basket. The most potent tincture will be that which is imbedded in the herb, so whatever you can devise to press out the herb will work. Commercial presses are made from hydraulic jacks, so you can try to devise something on your own. If you only use your hands, you will still get a serviceable tincture. I put cheesecloth or a jelly cloth inside my press, to hold back any dirt that might be in the herb, and to give me a clear, not cloudy, tincture.

Put this tincture in a blue or brown jar, preferably one with a glass dropper, so you can then easily take doses of a few drops. Keep the bottle out of direct sun, but you do not necessarily have to keep it in a totally dark place. It is a good idea to write the name of the herb, the type of alcohol you used, and the date that you pressed out the tincture on a label, just to keep track of your various bottles of product.

Continued on page 33



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## INDUSTRY NEWS

## More Organic Milk Sought in Northeast

*Farms should be sure to have a market secured before beginning the 12 month herd transition.*

**Dairy Marketing Services (DMS)** continues to market more than 50 percent of the organic milk produced in the Northeast. DMS was established to deliver efficiency in services and enhance returns from the market directly back to producers at a minimal cost. The DMS trained staff can assist you through organic certification process and help you explore your organic market options. At DMS we offer a wide range of services to producers such as health insurance and workers compensation through Agri-Services Agency, leases and loans from Agri-Max Financial, farm inputs and supplies through Eagle Dairy Direct, and herd management software from Dairy One. For more information, please contact Dave Eyster at 1-888-589-6455, ext. 5409 or david.eyster@dairymarketingservices.com

**CROPP Cooperative~Organic Valley Family of Farms** is the nation's largest farmer-owned organic cooperative and our continued growth offers new opportunities for dairy farmers throughout the Northeast and New England. We offer a stable, competitive organic milk pay price once certified and a complete year of Transitional Funding for new farmers during the herd's transitional year. We also offer farmers veterinary support, quality services, strong membership services, the Organic Trader Newsletter, inclusive communications and ownership of a cooperative with 20 years of organic farming and marketing experience. In addition, our Farm Resources Team can help source organic feed purchases for your operation. We also have expanded our cooperative membership to include our Grower Pool; Offering long term, stable pricing & marketing opportunities for organic forage/grain producers throughout the region. And, our Organic Cull Cow & dairy steer program is looking to grow into the region. Please contact our Regional Coordinators or Membership Services for further details.

In New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia contact Peter Miller, (612) 801-3506, peter.miller@organicvalley.coop. In New England contact John Cleary at (612) 803-9087, or email at john.cleary@organcivalley.coop. In the Great Lakes Region contact Jake Schmitz, (270) 779-1526 or jake.schmitz@organicvalley.coop. Membership Services- 1-888-809-9297 Monday through Friday 8-5 PM Central www.farmers.coop.

**Interested in transitioning to organic dairy? At Horizon Organic,** it all begins on the farm. As America's leading organic dairy brand, we owe our success to the growing community of family farmers who support

our mission, one organic acre at a time. We believe that farmers deserve to know where their milk is going – and consumers deserve to know where it originated. Over the years, we've maintained a dedicated milk supply and nurtured a direct relationship with each of the hundreds of farms in our network. And we're committed to keeping it that way.

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Contacts: Cindy Masterman (New England) (888) 648-8377; Peter Slaunwhite (Northeast) (800) 381-0980; Steve Rinehart (Mideast) (866) 268-4665; Michelle Sandy (Mid Atlantic) (866) 412-1380; Mike Bandstra (Midwest) (877) 620-8259; Greg Dabney (West) (800) 588-9283 x4747

**HP Hood** continues to look for high quality farms for our organic milk supply. We are eager to talk to farms that are ready to begin their herd transition in the fall of 2007. Our routes encompass a number of Northern Tier States (ME, NH, VT, NY, PA, OH, MI, WI, MN, IA) and we would like to hear from you. Our support of sustainable agriculture, a signing bonus and transition assistance have helped many already. Please call Karen Cole, HP Hood Milk Procurement, karen.cole@hphood.com or at 1-866-383-1026.

**Lancaster Organic Farmers Cooperative (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.

**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 3 milk plants in Buffalo and Rochester. Our members are interested in producing organic milk and processing organic dairy products. 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, please visit our website at www.upstatefarms.com or contact me. Enjoy your day....Bill Young 800-724-6455 byoung@upstateniagara.com

**United Ag Services** in Seneca Falls, NY is looking for organic milk in NY and northern PA. Please call 800-326-4251.

*Any buyers looking for organic milk who would like to be listed in this column for the January 2009 issue, please email the desired text to Ed at ednodpa@comcast.net or call 413-772-0444 by December 16th 2008.*



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## ORGANIC PRODUCTION

## Herbal Tinctures

*continued from page 31*

from the books listed at the end of this article.

**So, the items you will need include:**

- Fresh or dried flowers, leaves, stems or roots- and a way to chop them into small pieces
- Vodka, Brandy, Grain Alcohol or Glycerin
- Glass jar with tight fitting lid that is not much bigger than the amount of herb you can squeeze into it.
- Cheesecloth, jelly cloth and some way to press out the tincture from the herb.
- Brown or blue glass bottle with dropper for putting the finished tincture.
- Labels for both the in-process tincture and finished tincture.

**Here is a listing of some of the more common tinctures and the parts of the plants that are used.**

- Black cohosh- fresh or dried root
- Burdock- fresh or dried root
- Dandelion- fresh or dried root
- Echinacea- Whole plant fresh plant including flower heads, stem, leaves and root harvested in the fall, but when

still flowering OR fresh or dried roots

- Goldenseal- fresh or dried root
- Nettle- fresh or dried herb or root
- Plantain- fresh herb
- Garlic (do not need to pack the jars, or if you do, you can add alcohol to the finished tincture, this is a very strong tincture!)
- Ginseng- powdered dried root
- Valerian- fresh root
- Yarrow- fresh flowering plant, lots of flowers in mix
- Yellow Dock- fresh or dry root

**Three items that are commonly made with an olive or sesame oil infusion are**

- St Johnswort- fresh flowers
- Bloodroot- root
- Calendula- fresh and dried flowers

For these oil infusions you cover the herb with oil in a jar and put the jar in a paper sack in the sun so they are warm for about 10 days. Then press out the herbs and store in a cool dark place. Don't be alarmed if the oil from the St. Johnswort turns a blood red, that is what it is supposed to do! ♦

*Harriet Behar is the MOSES Outreach Director. She raises herbs, organic bedding plants and vegetables and makes tinctures at her farm in Gays Mills, WI.*

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## RESEARCH & EDUCATION

## Upcoming Winter Conferences

**Saturday, January 17, 2009**

## 2009 VT Grazing Conference Features Dr. Darrell Emmick, Includes VT Beef Producers' Conference

The 13th Annual Vermont Grazing Conference, titled Managing Animal Behavior: It's Not What You Do, It's How You Do It, will feature grazing behaviorist and NY-NRCS State Grazing Specialist Dr. Darrell Emmick as keynote speaker. The main conference will take place at Vermont Technical College in Randolph, VT on Saturday, January 17, 2009. The schedule includes themed tracks for dairy, beef, small ruminants, animal behavior, poultry & small animals, research, grazing partnerships, technical and on-farm energy options. A full day kids' conference will take place on site. Pre-conference workshops on Friday, January 16 will focus on winter livestock management.

Dr. Emmick has worked for over 25 years promoting grazing-based dairy production systems in the northeast region of the U.S. This work includes the development of practical application guidelines and the provision of on-farm technical assistance. His primary research interest is in the foraging behavior of lactating dairy cows and the influence of supplemental concentrate feeds.

In an exciting new partnership, the VT Beef Producers' Association will be sponsoring a beef-themed track as a concurrent conference, and will be holding its annual meeting on site. The beef conference title: Improving the Quality of Our Beef.

The conference is co-organized by the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture and the Vermont Grass Farmers Association, with major support from the VT Beef Producers' Association.

**To learn more**, contact Jenn Colby, Pasture Outreach Coordinator, at (802) 656-0858, [jcolby@uvm.edu](mailto:jcolby@uvm.edu), or visit [www.uvm.edu/pasture](http://www.uvm.edu/pasture).

**January 23-25, 2009**

## NOFA-NY's 27th Organic Farming and Gardening Conference: "Meals Without Wheels: Revitalizing our Local Organic Foodshed"

The Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York will host their 27th annual winter education conference from January 23-25, 2009, at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center in downtown Rochester, NY. The conference will feature over 25 workshops of

interest to grain, dairy, and livestock farmers! The organic tradeshow and marketplace will feature over 75 exhibitors, including equipment!

This year's NOFA-NY conference features exciting guest and keynote speakers Fred Kirschenmann, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, Brett Melone and Florentino Collazo, Agriculture and Land Based Training Association, Shirley Sherrod, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund and Dr. Ed Sheaffer, VMD, Clark Veterinary Clinic and author of *Homeopathy for the Herd*.

On Friday, January 23, the conference offers four intensive full and half-day workshops for livestock, dairy, and grain farmers to explore select topics comprehensively. Join Sarah Flack for an all day grazing workshop; learn ways to make the connection between locally grown organic wheat and locally made baked goods; Discuss how to create and maintain sound crop rotation on your farm.

Saturday and Sunday workshops explore topics on organic livestock, organic field crops, and organic dairy farming in three distinct tracks (over 18 workshops!). On Saturday, Dr. Ed Sheaffer, VMD will give a complete three-session program on homeopathy for the herd including: 1. Introductory Principles and Practice of Homeopathic Medicine for Organic Herds; 2. Advanced Homeopathic Medicine for Organic Dairy Herds and 3. Trouble Shooting with Homeopathy: Therapies and Investigative Techniques for the Individual Animal and Herd. Do not miss this opportunity to expand your knowledge of organic farming and network with other leaders in the Northeast organic community.

**The full conference program and registration information are available at [www.nofany.org](http://www.nofany.org) or call 607-652-NOFA (6632).**

**February 4 – 7, 2009**

## Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture's 18th Annual Farming for the Future Conference

The two keynote speakers are Raj Patel, activist and author of *Stuffed and Starved* and Bern Sweeney, researcher and Director of the Stroud Water Research Center. Both will touch on this year's timely conference theme, The Worldwide Search for Food Sovereignty: Finding Your Foodshed.

The event will offer thirteen pre-conference intensives and over 75 workshops on topics not limited to fiber, grazing and browse methods, IPM, renewable energy, shaping public policy, farmers' markets, starting a creamery, hog production, and season extension.

Other exciting conference features include over 80 trade show exhibitors, live music, a benefit auction, local & organic meals, a job-fair, kids and youth programming and much more!

The complete schedule will be available at [www.pasafarming.org](http://www.pasafarming.org) in late November. Call 814-349-9856 to get a conference program.

**February 14 - 15, 2009**

## Innovations Toward Local Food Sovereignty ... NOFA Vermont's 27th Annual Winter Conference

Vermont Technical College, Randolph, VT

Join us for our two day conference offering more than 60 workshops. The conference also features a farmers' market, NOFA Vermont's extensive book table, live music, silent auction, and the largest potluck lunches in New England!

Technical workshops for dairy and livestock producers will be featured on Saturday with a full day of intensive sessions.

The Saturday keynote will be given by Andrew Meyer, founder of The Center for Agricultural Economy, owner of Vermont Natural Coatings, a whey-based varnish company, and Vermont Soy, an organic soy drink and tofu company. Andrew is setting the scene in Vermont for true Food Sovereignty through agricultural and community innovations.

The Sunday keynote will be given by Eliot Coleman, farmer and author of *The New Organic Grower*, *Four Season Harvest*, and *The Winter Harvest Manual*. Eliot brings nearly 40 years of experience in all aspects of organic farming, including field vegetables, greenhouse vegetables, rotational grazing, and four-season production and marketing. He will also give a farmer intensive workshop session on Monday, February 16 for advanced commercial growers. **Visit [www.nofavt.org](http://www.nofavt.org) for more information** such as conference schedule, registration, sponsorship, and exhibiting opportunities. PHONE: 802-434-4122.

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February 26-28, 2009

## Organic Farmers Share 20 Years Together at the MOSES Organic Farming Conference

The 20th annual Organic Farming Conference will be held at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, Wisconsin, on February 26 through 28, 2009. The conference commences with a general session on Thursday evening (not to mention a delicious organic supper!) followed by musical entertainment. On Friday and Saturday, the conference is packed with workshops, a lively exhibit hall, lots of local and organic food, and just plain good folks to talk to.

With over 60 different workshop sessions and 130 exhibitors, there is something of interest for everyone and the Organic University is held on Thursday, with intensive, day-long courses digging into ten different areas of organic farming.

The Organic Farming Conference will feature two outstanding keynote speakers this year. Vandana Shiva, international environmentalist and water rights activist will be speaking Friday morning and Dr. Alan Greene, renowned pediatric physician and author of “Raising Baby Green” will do the Saturday morning keynote address.

**To request a conference flyer with complete information,** contact the MOSES office at [info@mosesorganic.org](mailto:info@mosesorganic.org), or call 715-772-3153. The MOSES website--[www.mosesorganic.org](http://www.mosesorganic.org) --is a great place for more details – plus, you'll soon be able to register online.



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# Calendar

**December 2-3, 2008**

**Keynotes of Animal Health – A Whole Farm Approach  
Hyatt Regency Union Station, St Louis, Missouri**

This is a pre-conference workshop at the Acres U.S.A. conference, featuring Jerry Brunetti. For more information, go to [www.acresusa.com](http://www.acresusa.com) or call 800-355-5313

**December 4, 2008**

**Pennsylvania Certified Organic Annual Meeting, State College, PA**  
Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO) is a USDA-accredited organic certifying agency that educates and certifies growers, processors and handlers of organic crops, wild crops, livestock and livestock products in Pennsylvania and adjoining states. For more info, see: <http://www.paorganic.org/event.htm>

**December 4-6, 2008**

**Acres U.S.A. Conference and Trade Show**

**Hyatt Regency Union Station, St. Louis, Missouri**

At the annual Acres U.S.A. conference you can find farmers and consultants from every side of eco-farming who come together to share their experience and expertise. Learn the latest in cutting-edge technology and methods, and return home ready to make your farming operation the best it can be. For more information, go to [www.acresusa.com](http://www.acresusa.com) or call 800-355-5313

**December 4-5, 2008**

**The Young Farmers Conference: Reviving the Culture  
Pocantico Hills, New York**

The Young Farmers Conference will be a space to network with peers and learn from leaders in the field, helping to ensure that the next generation of farmers is equipped for the work ahead. Workshops during the conference will cover topics on four tracks: Getting Started; General Skills; Policy, the Farm Bill, and Global Agricultural Issues; The Farmer-Chef Relationship. Keynote speakers and other activities are also scheduled. contact Nena Johnson by phone, 914.366.6200 ext112, or by email, [nenaj@stonebarnscenter.org](mailto:nenaj@stonebarnscenter.org).

**December 5-6, 2008**

**On Farm Pig Slaughter and Whole Animal Butchering  
Brown Boar Farm, Wells, Vermont**

Join us for a two-day workshop at Brown Boar Farm. Roger Shaddock will lead the Friday slaughter workshop reviewing procedure, technique, and infrastructure along with tool and meat safety. Saturday morning the group will go through the breakdown of the whole carcass. For more information call NOFA-VT, Phone: 802-434-4122, email:[info@nofavt.org](mailto:info@nofavt.org), or website: [www.nofavt.org](http://www.nofavt.org)

**January 12 – 15, 2009**

**National Farmers Organization Convention  
Edgewater Park, Coralville, Iowa**

For more information, visit [www.nfo.org](http://www.nfo.org) or call 800-247-2110 or email: [nfo@nfo.org](mailto:nfo@nfo.org).

**January 15 – 19, 2009**

**Biodynamics Course, Chestnut Ridge, New York**

Advanced course – intensive study of the origins and future of biodynamics. For more information call 845-352-5020, email: [info@pfeiffer-center.org](mailto:info@pfeiffer-center.org), or visit the website at [www.pfeiffercenter.org](http://www.pfeiffercenter.org).

**January 16 &17, 2009**

**13th Annual Vermont Grazing Conference**

**Vermont Technical College, Randolph Center, VT**

Keynote speaker NY NRCS Grazing Specialist Dr Darrell Emmick will lead the day's theme of Managing Animal Behavior: It's Not What You Do, It's How You Do It. Themed tracks will include behavior, technical,

research, small ruminant, and more. A pre-conference day will focus on farm tours. Full day Kid's conference, trade show, lunch time discussions, and a fabulous local grass-fed lunch. Contact: Jenn Colby, 802-656-0858 or email: [jcolby@uvm.edu](mailto:jcolby@uvm.edu), [www.uvm.edu/pasture](http://www.uvm.edu/pasture)

**Saturday, January 17th, 2009**

**22nd NOFA/Mass Annual Winter Conference, Worcester, MA**

**ORGANIC AGRICULTURE: The Roots of a Sustainable Community**

The conference will feature many other great workshops, a large, centrally located exhibit area, the usual delicious pot-luck lunch an intensive all-day workshop on four season growing to be presented by Eliot Coleman, and much more.

Registration for the conference will cost \$50 with discounts available for NOFA members, certified farmers, children and students. Pre-registration will begin in December. Go to <http://www.nofamass.org/conferences/w2009/index.php> for more information.

**January 23-25, 2009**

**Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York Conference:**

“Meals Without Wheels! Revitalizing our Local, Organic Foodshed”  
**Rochester, New York.** For more information visit [www.nofany.org](http://www.nofany.org), or call 607-652-6632.

*continued on page 40*

## Advertise With Us!

**NODPA News is Published Bi-Monthly**

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**Discounts:** 10% discount for a full year's booking  
(6 issues), paid January 26, 2009. Ad rates and  
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For advertising information call Lisa McCrory:  
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Please email your electronic ad (.eps, .tiff, .jpg, .gif)  
to [chris@chrishillmedia.com](mailto:chris@chrishillmedia.com) or send your ad to: Lisa  
McCrory, Nodpa Newsletter, 341 Macintosh Hill Rd.,  
Randolph, VT 05060

**NOTE:** Ads requiring typesetting, size changes or design work will be charged additional fees, according to the service (minimum charge \$30.00).

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## NET UPDATES

### Recent O'Dairy Discussions

*By Liz Bawden*

As most of us scrambled during September to get crops harvested that were delayed by all-too-frequent summer rains, there was still some time for interesting idea exchanges on O'Dairy.

Some farmers discussed the practise of milking once a day. It appeared that most of the farmers who responded either milked once a day as part of a seasonal schedule (a slow-down phase before drying off) or kept calves on the cows for at least half a day. But one farmer shared that he recently switched from twice a day milking to once a day, and his production fell to 60%. He was prepared for this, as his research into the practise warned that generally a herd drops to about 70% of their twice a day volume, but climbs to 80% the next year, and 90% the third. Two other farmers told of their 16-hour milking schedule; they liked this schedule better than a 12 hour schedule because they felt it was more flexible for other demands on their time, like field work and family events. One of them milks at 5am and 8pm one day, and at noon the next.

A farmer had seen that his heifers tend to get ringworm each year at the 7 to 14 month stage. Another producer suggested that it may be a copper deficiency, or could be iron in the water, since iron can tie up copper, making it unavailable. It was reported that Pat Coleby recommended mixing 2 tblsp copper sulfate with a pint of cider vinegar to use topically as a wash on the lesions. Another said they found that Vitamin A gets rid of ringworm quickly. A researcher on the list responded that it is linked to lack of boron, which seems to limit copper uptake even when supplies in soil and forage are adequate.

Using molasses as an energy source is getting lots of attention these days. Several producers shared their perspectives and their methods of feeding and storage. Some that had fed molasses for a while had discontinued feeding it, and saw no change in production or health. Others reported good results as a lower cost energy source. One producer shared how he

#### To Subscribe to ODairy:

Follow the instructions on our website, [www.nodpa.com](http://www.nodpa.com)  
or email: [odairy-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:odairy-subscribe@yahoo.com)

#### Coming Soon:

ODairy will be moving in-house to our own web site soon.  
We'll keeping you posted on the details of the transition.

stores the tanker of molasses, and runs it into a TMR mixer. A researcher has applied for a grant to study a group of farms feeding molasses with and without supplemental grain.

A producer had a cow that presented ketosis symptoms with a low grade fever and was licking and kicking at her udder. Another producer suggested hardware, and two vets also suggested giving a magnet to treat that condition. But the behavior of the cow made

one of the vet think it may be nervous ketosis -- treated in the same way as regular ketosis, with IV dextrose and drench with electrolytes.

There was a long thread discussing polled genetics in dairy breeds. Some producers enthusiastically embracing the polled bulls on the market, others less so. Lots of good historical informa-

tion on the origin of these polled lines was provided by one producer.

Another producer asked for help as they had a number of adult cows to dehorn. Many responses included a variety of techniques to reduce bleeding. To sum it all up, the advise seemed to be to leave a 2 to 3 inch stump to minimize pain and bleeding, use your vet to supply you with the correct sedation and pain medication, and take great care to limit dehorning in older animals. It is far easier on the animal and the farmer to dehorn a young calf. Then, of course, the “polled genetics” people reminded us that if only you had bred for polled cattle..... ♦



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# Classified Ads

More extensive classifieds can be found on the NODPA web site at: [www.nodpa.com/classifieds.shtml](http://www.nodpa.com/classifieds.shtml)

## Livestock

**Two registered Normande cows with papers.** Asking \$1450 each. Contact Peter J. Schwartz, 5971 Zimmer Road, Avoca, NY 14809

**20 bred Jerseys of varying ages.** Some are older, some are second calf heifers. We are trying to reduce our herd size to fit our animals into the barn for the winter. Perfect situation for someone looking to increase fall milk. We have been breeding to AI for 20 some years. Contact Steve Brown, Mount Hunger Jerseys, East Burke, VT at 802-626-3258.

**Selling at least 50 young stock.** They are newborn to springing Dutch Belted, Holstien, Jersey. We also plan to sell started calves over the next 6 months. All animals are organic. Calves 4 months and older are fence Contact Roger Scholten, Weybridge, Vermont Phone: 802-989-8076m e-mail [scholten@gmavt.net](mailto:scholten@gmavt.net)

**One cow and three heifers for sale:** “Ella” Guernsey/Ayrshire cross with Guernsey registration, born 8/19/04; asking \$1200 alone or \$1500 including her heifer calf. “Leonora” born 10/11/08, very healthy calf, dam is Guernsey/Ayrshire (see “Ella” above); must be sold same time as her mother; asking \$400. “Leia” born 9/16/07, very well grown Limousin cross, dam is Guernsey/Ayrshire (see “Ella” above), sire is Limousin; asking \$800. “May” Guernsey heifer with Guernsey registration, born 8/10/06, asking \$1800.

Willing to sell all four cattle together for \$3900. All are managed organically, but not certified, with pasture only plus free-choice minerals this past growing season, located in South Kent, CT (near Amenias, New York border).

## 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: (choose one below)

\_\_\_ \$0.02/cwt to support the work of NODPA  
\_\_\_ \$0.05/cwt 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/cwt (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 #/member #: \_\_\_\_\_ # of milking cows: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Call 860-927-3883 or email [altazena@sbcglobal.net](mailto:altazena@sbcglobal.net). I can email pictures.

**Certified Organic milking cows for sale.** 18 Holstein, 3 Milking Shorthorn, 2 Brown Swiss x Holstein various stages of lactation. Also 2 Brown Swiss x Holstein bred heifers. Call for information and pricing to Applecheek Farm, 802-888-4482. Email: [applecheek@pshift.com](mailto:applecheek@pshift.com). Phone: 802-888-4482. Location: Hyde Park, Vermont

**Herd Reduction Sale--** We have grown our Holstein dairy herd from 120 to 250 cows in the last 3 years. We are selling 120 head selected for strength, high forage diets and longevity. Records available. Gary Zimmer, 608-225-9839. Email: [rgzimmer@mhtc.net](mailto:rgzimmer@mhtc.net). Location: Avoca, WI.

**30 certified organic bred heifers,** Holstein and Holstein/Jersey crosses (10 heifers w/horns) for sale; would like to sell soon, all reasonable offers considered. Please call 315 408 5828 (leave message if no answer). Michael and Marisa Frazier. Email: [marmic@northnet.org](mailto:marmic@northnet.org). Location: Lowville, NY

## Forages & Grain

**100 bales of straw, 200 bales of 2nd cut, and 300 bales of 1st cut for sale.** The bales are 4 X 5 hard-center, roto-cut, and net wrapped round bales. Some baleage is also available. The hay is a grass and legume mix. The straw is a mix of oat, wheat and triticale. We are located in upstate NY, north of Watertown. Brian and Liz Bawden at [bawden@cit-tele.com](mailto:bawden@cit-tele.com) or 315-324-6926.

**PCO certified organic round bales for sale.** Improved varieties Mixed grass/clover. \$50 per bale. Central Virginia. 540-270-8355.

## Equipment

**Wanted, Stanchion.** Looking for 30 to 40 side open stanchion. If you have some and want to part with them please reply. Barnes & Barnes Organic Dairy Farm. [bbarnes10832@roadrunner.com](mailto:bbarnes10832@roadrunner.com)

## Become a Subscribing NODPA Member!

By becoming a subscribing member you will receive NODPA News and help support the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance. NODPA depends on your 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  
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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.**

## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

### From the MODPA President

*By Darlene Coehoorn, MODPA President  
Rosendale, Wisconsin*

As I write this, crops in the Midwest are being harvested with some yielding well in spite of the rocky start, others are not doing as well as expected. Overall yields are lower than anticipated. Some crops are challenged when it comes to quality as well.

I am seeing more advertisements for organic dairy auctions than ever before. It seems the squeeze between high inputs and farm gate prices that aren’t keeping up means more farmers are just giving up. All this when organic milk supply in the Midwest is reportedly short, and we are told that there are no price increases anticipated for the near future.

Perhaps its time to let our milk volume do our speaking. We cannot and should not be the only ones in the chain who don’t make a profit. We need to maintain our integrity and the



**Arden Nelson (Colorado), Darlene Coehoorn, MODPA President (Wisconsin), Jerome Walker (Louisiana), and Roman Stoltzfoos (Pennsylvania) participating in a producer panel at the NODPA Field Days in Auburn, NY.**

consumers’ confidence while we stand up and demand what we need to survive.

The time is now to join your ODPa and let your-our voice be magnified before we find our farms listed in the ad section of the paper. ♦

## Become a Member of MODPA!

Member dues are \$35 per year, for which you receive our newsletter and become part of our team working for the best interests of all organic dairies.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Certified Organic Dairy? Yes No # of cows: \_\_\_\_\_

Transitioning: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to support MODPA (check whatever applies):  
\_\_\_ By becoming a state rep or director.  
\_\_\_ By supporting MODPA with a %/cwt check-off.  
\_\_\_ By providing a donation to support the work of MODPA. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.

**Please send this form to: Darlene Coehoorn, MODPA Treasurer  
N5868, Cty Hwy C, Rosendale, WI 54974**

## About MODPA

The Midwest Organic Dairy Producer Alliance (MODPA) represents organic dairy producers in WI, MN, ND, SD, IA, NE, KS, MO, IL, IN, OH, & MI with the mission “to promote communication and networking for the betterment of all Midwest organic dairy producers and enhance a sustainable farmgate price.” Objectives are:

1. To ensure a fair and sustainable farm gate price.
2. Keep family farms viable for future generations.
3. Promote ethical, ecological and humane farming practices.
4. Networking among producers of all organic commodities.
5. Promote public policy, research and education in support of organic agriculture.

### MODPA Board

<b>Wisconsin</b> Darlene Coehoorn, President Viewpoint Acres Farm N5878 Hwy C Rosendale, WI 54974 <a href="mailto:viewpoint@dotnet.com">viewpoint@dotnet.com</a> Phone: 920-921-5541	<b>bdrinkman@hotmail.com</b> <b>Phone: 715-265-4631</b>
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## Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (NODPA)

c/o Ed Maltby  
30 Keets Road  
Deerfield, MA 01342

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Turners Falls, MA

## CALENDAR

*continued from page 36*

**February 4-7, 2009**

### **PASA's 18th Annual Farming for the Future Conference State College, PA**

The two keynote speakers are Raj Patel, activist and author of *Stuffed and Starved* and Bern Sweeney, researcher and Director of the Stroud Water Research Center. The complete schedule and more information will be available at [www.pasafarming.org](http://www.pasafarming.org) in late November. Call 814-349-9856 to get a conference program.

**February 14 & 15, 2009**

### **NOFA-VT's 27th Annual Winter Conference Vermont Technical College, Randolph, VT**

Two day conference will offer more than 60 workshops and technical intensive workshops for livestock and dairy will take place on Saturday. For more information, call 802-434-4122 or go to: [www.nofavt.org](http://www.nofavt.org)

**February 26-28, 2009**

### **20th Annual Organic Farming Conference - Including Organic University!**

**MOSES, La Crosse, Wisconsin**

Celebrating 20 YEARS of sharing knowledge, finding solutions, and moving the organic movement forward together. Learn from a community of over 2,000 farmers, educators, and advocates. Share best practices, enjoy incredible food, choose from over 60 informative and dynamic workshops and experience over 130 informative booths in our exhibit hall! Contact: Phone: 715-772-3153 : Website: [www.mosesorganic.org](http://www.mosesorganic.org) or email: [info@mosesorganic.org](mailto:info@mosesorganic.org).



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(or) 25 for \$19.75

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**30 Keets Rd., Deerfield, MA 01342**