



QUARTERLY REPORT

Has the Organic Food Program gone WACO?

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On January 17 and 18, 2006, the Organic Food Program participated in a meeting of the WACO group. WACO stands for the Western Alliance of Certification Officers whose members include WSDA, Oregon Tilth (OTCO), California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) and Quality Assurance International (QAI). This particular meeting also included Dave DeCou of the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI). All acronyms aside, the



WACO members at McMinneman's in Troutdale, OR. From left to right: Janning Kennedy (CCOF), Les Eklund (WSDA), Brian McElroy (CCOF) and Dave DeCou (OMRI).

purpose of the group is to have open, direct communication to promote consistency among certifiers as well as to provide a forum to discuss interpretations and policy decisions. The certifiers discussed a variety of topics including:

- Policy issues for producers who ship products to the European Union
- Membership in IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements) - Is the accreditation worth the cost and work involved?
- Nu-Film – Approved status of the material and USDA letter regarding Pinene polymers
- Livestock – Access to outdoors for poultry and the threat of Avian Influenza
- FDA's Pasteurized Milk Ordinance and the prohibition of the use of aloe and homeopathics on dairy operations.

- Can chlorine be used on processed products?
- Chlorine and compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act

WACO meetings often occur in conjunction with other events, such as the Northwest Organic Dairy Conference or Organic Trade Association meetings, but occasionally will occur independent of any additional meetings, or even via conference calls. One of the best outcomes of the WACO meeting is the increased dialogue among certification agencies between meetings. There are many phone calls and email requests for clarification or consistency between the certifiers that do not occur at the WACO meetings.

While WSDA does not normally change policy or interpretations based on information discussed at the WACO meetings, we use these meetings as an opportunity to think and talk through some of the more complicated issues with the standards. Any policy changes that occur as a result of WACO meetings or other meetings will be shared with you either through the Quarterly Report or through a separate mailing. *By Katherine Withey, Organic Program Specialist*



2006 Organic Seed Grower's Conference January 2006 Portland, Oregon

The requirement that organic growers use organic seed has created a booming market for organic seed, as evidenced by the attendance at the 4th Organic Seed Growers Conference, which vastly exceeded the expectations of the organizers. Attendees were primarily seed producers, but also included researchers, certifiers, and representatives of major seed companies.

Early in the conference, a distinction was made between breeding better plant varieties, and producing seed for crop production. A breeder may select seeds from plants grown under adverse conditions, to develop a variety with inherent vigor. After the variety has been developed, the seed producer will select seeds from plants grown under optimal conditions, because that seed will have a high viability and germination rate, and will produce strong healthy seedlings.

Organic growers require plant varieties that can compete with weeds, and tolerate insects and diseases. To develop varieties with those characteristics, the breeding lines must be exposed to high insect, weed, and disease pressure. Currently most university breeding programs are conducted under conventional growing systems, in which weeds, insects and diseases are minimized through heavy applications of pesticides. Whereas formerly breeders developed varieties resistant to pests, now breeders develop varieties resistant to pesticides.

Vegetable seed is produced under a contract, which specifies whether the seed is to be organic, the price that the farmer will be paid, and payment in case of a crop failure. Growers are paid the contract price only if seed meets the quality criteria for germination and purity. Diseases may reduce germination, and weed seeds mixed with the crop seed will reduce purity. Production of seed is significantly more difficult under organic management than under conventional management, and consequently the farmer needs to receive a higher price for organic seed. Several speakers offered advice for the management of soil fertility, weeds, and diseases.

Seed growers must pay extra attention to soil fertility, particularly the need for high fertilization early in the life of the plant. The standard fertilizer recommendations are appropriate for vegetables, but are too low for production of high yields of high quality seed. Even if the soil test results indicate no deficiencies in minor nutrients, fertilizer applications may still be necessary.

Control of plant diseases is more difficult in seed crops than in vegetable crops. Seed producers must control diseases that affect flowering and seed formation, in addition to root and foliar diseases. To protect against soil-borne diseases, conventional growers use pre-plant soil fumigants, but organic growers must rely on long crop rotations. To protect against foliar and flower diseases, conventional growers use fungicides and bacteriocides throughout the growing season, but organic growers have far fewer tools to use. Seed-borne pathogens, if they are present inside the seed or on the surface of the seed, will decrease seed germination rates and result in weaker seedlings and reduced crop yields. Organic growers may use some post-harvest seed treatments, such as hot water, but this can reduce seed germination and vigor. The threat of seed-borne pathogens should be a serious concern for organic growers who need to use high-quality disease-free seed.

Weed control is more difficult in seed crops than in vegetable crops, because of the long growing season. Weeds compete for nutrients, which limits yield. Weeds that are allowed to set seed will be harvested along with crop seed, and may be difficult to remove during the cleaning (conditioning) process after harvest. In an organic system, weeds are usually controlled by hand-weeding, which contributes to the high cost of organic seed.

Although converting from vegetable production to seed production can present some difficulties, there are many advantages to including seed production as part of a diversified organic farm. The seed contract provides income, and seeds produced on farm can save the expense of purchasing seeds each year. Saving seed over many years can allow the farmer to develop varieties adapted to the local climate, and it allows the farm to be more sustainable, because it includes the full cycle of food production. Sustainability is also enhanced because the flowers provide food and habitat for beneficial insects.

Clearly, seed production under organic management can be challenging. Attendance at this conference indicated that many people are eager to face those challenges and create opportunities from them. For further information, consult Alex Stone's guide for seed producers, which is available in electronic format at <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/hort/faculty/stone/SpecialtySeedGuide/index.html#specialty>. *By Pamela Coleman, Organic Field Inspector*

Conference Proceedings and can be downloaded from the web at <http://www.seedalliance.org/>.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visions of the Federal Farm Bill. April 20, 2006. Big Bend Community College, 7662 Chanute Street NE, Building 1400. Moses Lake WA.

What can we expect from the new Farm Bill? What are the opportunities it presents and the practical realities we must face? What positions will be taken and arguments will be made by the multitude of interests likely to influence the debate? Are there coalitions to be formed and agreements to be reached that might help farmers here in Washington and nationwide. Featuring addresses by Director Valoria Loveland, Washington Department of Agriculture, and Congressman Doc Hastings, of Washington's 4th District. Contact Sara Nikolic at farmbill@soleauconsulting.com or calling 206-226-1914



Strengthening Rural Community Food Systems. May 7, 2006. Eastern Oregon University, LaGrande OR.

A statewide symposium with panel discussions, workshops, demonstrations, and skills for action on a variety of topics related to community food systems. Key-note speaker: John Ikerd, author of Sustainable Capitalism: A Matter of Common Sense. Contact Rob Davis at (541) 962-3560 or rdavis@eou.edu

Sustainable Rural Enterprises/Multi-Species Grazing Conference. May

24 – 26, 2006. La Quinta Inn, Ritzville, WA.

The conference and tour will feature speakers with experience in developing rural enterprises focused on sustainable livestock and resource management strategies. Cost: \$25, lunch included. Contact Andrea Mann, Big Bend RC&D at (509)754-2463, ext.115 or Don Nelson, WSU at (509)335-2922.

Farm to Table: Expanding Direct-Market Connections Between Local Food Producers and Buyers. May 1, 2006. Tacoma, WA.

Cascade Harvest Coalition is hosting a networking workshop for food producers and buyers in Mt. Vernon Monday March 20th, from 9:30-1:30 p.m. Farmers, ranchers, fishers, chefs, restaurateurs, produce and food service managers are all encouraged to attend. Contact Erin Schau at 206-718-4984, ekschau@u.washington.edu

Organic Farm Walks

Tilth Producers and WSU Small Farm Program present the 2006 schedule for organic farm walks. Mark your calendars for the following days:

- May 1 – Full Circle Farm, Carnation WA
- June 5 – Thundering Hooves, Touchet WA
- June 26 – Oxbow Organic Farm, Carnation WA

Cost - \$10 for Tilth Producers Members, \$15 for non-members. Contact Nancy Allen at (206) 442-7620 or nancy@tilthproducers.org. See updated schedule at <http://csanr.wsu.edu>

All Things Organic, May 6-9. Chicago, IL.

North America's all organic conference and trade show, is the place to meet the entire organic industry, all the top-level decision-makers in purchasing, processing, supplying, distributing, and manufacturing. Contact: <http://www.organicexpo.com/>

WSU Field Day, Puyallup. July 10. Topic to be announced. Contact Andy Bary at bary@wsu.edu

An ASABE 2006 session (BE-3) on Innovative Technologies for Organic and Sustainable Production. July 9 – 12, 2006. Portland, OR. ASABE is the American Society for Agricultural and Biological Engineers, and their 2006 international meeting is in Portland Oregon in July 9-12, 2006. At this meeting the technical session number BE-3 will be on 'innovative technologies for organic farming'. The purpose of this session is to enhance research done to increase the convenience of organic farming without compromising its principles. For more information, visit www.bioagengineering.org/Innoviations_event.htm or call Hala . Chaoui at 614-209-5196.

Tilth Producers' Annual Conference Nov. 10-12, 2006. Vancouver, WA.

The keynote address will be "Bringing the Farm Economy Home" by Helena Norberg-Hodge of England. She will address key reasons for creating a local farm/food economy, the impact of globalization and Peak Oil, the cultural effects of the current globalized farm/food economy and the multiple benefits of local food systems.

Organic Food Program 2005 Compliance Action Summary

The following compliance actions were taken toward businesses certified organic by the Organic Food Program during the 2005 calendar year:

Notice of Noncompliance: 322 total issued

Issued for non-renewals of organic certification (223 issued); Recordkeeping (39 issued); Use of Prohibited Material (19 issued); Mislabeling (9 issued); Inadequate System Plans (7 issued); Inadequate Buffer (4 issued); Sites/Maps (4 issued); Inspection Availability (4 issued); Chlorine Use (4 issued); Seed Issues (3 issued); Crop Rotation (2 issued); Natural Resource Conservation (1 issued); Soil Quality Issues (1 issued); Fees (1 issued); and Use of Treated Wood (1 issued).

Notice of Proposed Suspension/Suspension/Proposed Revocation/Revocation: 85 total issued

A total of 85 were issued for compliance issues ranging from non-renewal of certification to the intended use of prohibited materials.

Pilot Farmers Needed for Socially Just Label

The North American Agriculture Fair Trade Assembly (NAAFTA) is seeking organic farmers who would like to participate in a pilot to add a socially just label to their products.

Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI-USA) is one of the founding organizers of this project. For the past four years, RAFI in partnership with CATA (Farmworkers' Support Committee) and Elizabeth Henderson has been working to develop a set of standards that address working conditions for farmworkers in the production of organic crops and fair pricing along the marketing chain for organic products. This international collaboration has added Quality Certification Services (QCS) as a consulting certifier to test pilot standards on a North American organic farm. The National Coop Grocers Association is collaborating with the project to market fresh or value added products in a participating co-op grocery store.



The following are prerequisites to participating: Your farm must be a certified organic operation (no split operations). Your farm must employ seasonal or migrant labor. Products produced on your farm can be sold to a co-op grocery store. You are willing to actively participate in the pilot, including hosting farm visits, completing an application, and participating in an evaluation process.

If you are interested in participating, please contact J.J. Richardson at RAFI, (919) 542-1396.

\$\$ Funding Opportunities for Organic Farmers \$\$

- **Farm Service Agency Loans for "Socially Disadvantaged" Farmers**

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has loan funding available specifically for "socially disadvantaged" applicants to buy and operate family-sized farms. Loans are available for a variety of purposes. Some loans may be used to purchase or enlarge a farm or ranch, purchase easements or rights of way, erect or improve buildings, promote soil and water conservation, and pay closing costs. Operating loans may be used to purchase livestock, equipment, feed, seed, fuel, fertilizer, and crop insurance. Funds also may be used to refinance debt. Eligible applicants may be from a group "that have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice... without regard to their individual qualities." Eligibility information and application materials are available online or through any local USDA Farm Service Agency.

- **National FFA Collegiate Scholarship Program**

The National FFA Organization is accepting applications for its Collegiate Scholarship Program. Each year the organization awards more than \$2 million in scholarships to members. Scholarships are given for a wide variety of experiences, career goals and higher education plans. Different awards may be used at colleges, universities and post-secondary agricultural programs. The scholarships are sponsored by numerous agricultural businesses through the National FFA Foundation, and new scholarships are added every year.

- **Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program**

The Commodity Credit Corporation announces the availability of funding for the 2006 Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) Program. This announcement is intended to solicit applications from the private sector and from government agencies for participation in the FY 2006 TASC Program. The TASC Program is designed to assist U.S. organizations by providing funding for private and public sector projects and technical assistance that address sanitary, phytosanitary, and technical barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops. In prior years, the amount of funding per proposal has ranged from \$13,000 to \$250,000, the maximum allowed. Proposals are evaluated on a semi-annual basis, with submission cut-off dates of February 1 and July 1. Proposals are due July 1, 2006.

- **North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grants**

The purpose of the 1989 North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), as amended, is to promote long-term conservation of North American wetland ecosystems, and the waterfowl and other migratory birds, fish and wildlife that depend upon such habitat. Principal conservation actions supported by NAWCA are acquisition, establishment, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and wetland-associated uplands. The North American Wetlands Conservation Council has created a Small Grants program to promote long-term wetlands conservation activities through encouraging participation by new grantees and partners who otherwise may not be able to compete in the Standard Grants program. Also, the Council believes that a Small Grants program can be important in developing a pool of new partners/grantees who eventually might participate in the Standard Grants program. Maximum grant under the program is \$75,000. Due date: De-

International Compost Awareness Week

May 7 – 13, 2006

It is widely known that adding healthy, balanced compost to your garden and crops can make enormous impacts on your farm and garden. Among its many benefits, compost returns organic matter to the soil in a usable form. Organic matter in the soil improves plant growth by: stimulating the growth of beneficial microorganisms, loosening heavy clay soils to allow better root penetration; improving the capacity to hold water and nutrients and adding essential nutrients to soil. Composting is also environmentally friendly. With landfills reaching capacity in many areas, compost helps keep materials out of the solid waste system and recycles them for maximum nutrient use. Whether your compost is a small backyard pile consisting mainly of kitchen scraps or a large windrow system with manure and yard waste (or some combination of the two), the act of composting waste is an important aspect of many farming operations, addressing both soil nutrient needs and environmental concerns. What better way to appreciate and celebrate the importance of composting in organic farming, then to participate in International Compost Awareness Week!

Be a part of the largest environmental education event for composting. The U.S. Composting Council officially invites you to join in celebrating *International Compost Awareness Week*. Across the United States, Canada and the UK, composting advocates will be encouraging everyone to *Compost!* This year's national poster theme, "The Possibilities Are Endless – Compost!" is a great way to get the message out. All types of composting from "do it yourself" composting in your backyard to large-scale, community-wide composting will be promoted during this week.



Compost Awareness Week is a fun and educational week of events that offers an opportunity to learn more about the many benefits of composting while enjoying the backdrop of fun activities.

What's Up for ICAW 2006:

- Ø National Poster Campaign
- Ø Compost and Community Water Festivals
- Ø Book Signings and Compost Discussions
- Ø State Compost Awareness Week proclamations for states including Washington and Oregon.
- Ø Promotions with local dealers and landscape supply stores with Buy One – Get One Free.
- Ø Sponsorships of TV & radio talk shows involving compost.
- Ø Talks/informal lectures by well-known gardening experts.
- Ø Backyard composting bin promotions.
- Ø Compost Give Away Day.
- Ø Urban gardening programs.

To find out what's going on in your area - visit www.compostingcouncil.org for a list of activities along with proclamations, press releases for states, counties and cities, and public service announcements for the weeklong event. For questions about ICAW and for sponsorship information and questions about the Teri Sorg-McManamon US Composting Council contact: Co-chair ICAW Committee, USCC Dr. Stuart Buckner 610-967-4135, ext. 33 Executive Director, advert@jgpress.com 631-737-4931; buck.stop@vdot.net.

BRAND NAME MATERIAL LIST UPDATE: APRIL 1, 2006

This list is to be used as an addendum to the Brand Name Material List distributed to all new and renewal applicants for certification. All materials listed below are approved as of April 1, 2006. You may access a complete updated Brand Name Materials List at the WSDA Organic Food Program website: <http://agr.wa.gov/foodanimal/organic/default.htm>.

PRODUCT NAME	COMPANY NAME	PRODUCT SUB-TYPE	PRODUCT TYPE	RESTRICTIONS
Ag Specialties Brand Sodium Nitrate	AG Specialties	Sodium Nitrate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Use restricted to no more than 20% of the crops total nitrogen requirement
Basicop	Griffin LLC	Copper Sulfate	Disease & Pest Control	Must be used in a manner that minimizes accumulation of copper in the soil
Bee-Scent	Scentry Biologicals, Inc.	Bee Attractant	Crop Production Aid	Label Use Only
Carpovirusine	Arvesta Corporation	Granulosis Virus	Disease & Pest Control	Label Use Only
Cedar Grove Potting Soil	Cedar Grove Composting	Potting Soil	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Cedar Grove Top Soil	Cedar Grove Composting	Top Soil	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Chicken Compost	Sunland Bark & Topsoil Co.	Compost	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Cyd-X	Certis USA, L.L.C.	Granulosis Virus	Disease & Pest Control	Label Use Only
Deliver (Green Line)	Certis USA, L.L.C.	Biological Insecticide	Disease & Pest Control	Label Use Only
Granubor® 2	U.S. Borax	Boron	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
Ida-Gro Pelletized Phosphate	Soda Springs Phosphate LLC	Phosphate Rock	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
IMPERIAL Limestone	J.A. Jack & Sons, Inc.	Limestone	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Javelin WG (Green Line)	Certis USA, L.L.C.	Biological Insecticide	Disease & Pest Control	Label Use Only
Limestone - Agricultural Grade	Art Wilson Co.	Limestone	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Micro N-B Organic	Micro Grow, LLC	Biological Soil Amendment	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Micromate	Mesa Verde Resources	Humic Acid	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
N TEXX Soil Inoculant with Humus	Chem-X International (CXI)	Soil Inoculant	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Neemis 4.5 (Green Line)	Certis USA, L.L.C.	Neem	Disease & Pest Control	Label Use Only
NUE Premium Boron 4%	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Boron	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
NUE Premium Copper 5%	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Copper Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Must be used in a manner that minimizes accumulation of copper in the soil [205.601 (i)(1)]; Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
NUE Premium Iron 5%	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Ferrous Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
NUE Premium Magnesium 4%	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Magnesium Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
NUE Premium Manganese 5%	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Manganese Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
NUE Premium Zinc 7%	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Zinc Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
NutraCelerator	Bioscientific	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Nutri-Rich 8-2-4	D. Stutzman Farms	Processed Manure	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Organic Weed Stopper Plus	Walt's Organic Fertilizer Co.	Corn Gluten	Disease & Pest Control	None
Peaco Organic Potting Soil	Peaco	Potting Soil	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Plant-X Bio N	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Liquid Soil Amendment	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Plant-X Bio SB	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Liquid Soil Amendment	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
Rhizopro	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Biological Fungicide	Disease & Pest Control	Label Use Only
Seed TRIGGRR	Westbridge Agricultural Products	Seed Treatment	Crop Production Aid	None
Trilogy (Green Line)	Certis USA, L.L.C.	Neem	Disease & Pest Control	Label Use Only
Waste Away	Chem-X International (CXI)	Microbial Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
YEASTURE-O	Cenzone Tech, Inc.	Probiotic	Livestock Production Aid	Label Use Only

Fee Increases for Organic Certification?

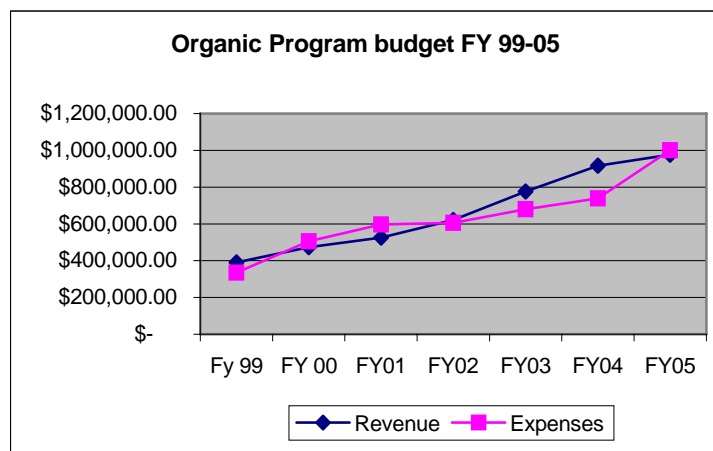
The WSDA Organic Food Program operates entirely on funds received from organic certification fees and material registration fees. The program does not receive any state or federal funding. The program's revenue and expenses have more than doubled over the last five years as the program has expanded (see chart).

Over the last year the program's expenses have exceeded the revenue received. At the January 2006 Organic Advisory Board meeting the board recommended that the program develop a fee increase proposal for discussion at the April 13 board meeting in Yakima. The program is considering some new fees and some modest fee increases to establish long term stable funding for the program.

New fees under consideration include a new product fee and a split operation fee. The new product fee would pertain to processors that request adding products to their organic certification. WSDA is currently reviewing labels and formulas for certified organic processors at no additional charge. The new product fee would provide revenue to offset the cost of providing this service. The split operation fee is being considered due to the increased time involved in certifying operations that produce or handle both organic and non-organic products.

Any changes to the organic certification fees will not be implemented until 2007. The Organic Advisory Board will be reviewing the proposed changes at their meetings. Please look for information about the Organic Advisory Board meetings on the program's website. Proposed changes to the fee schedule will be mailed to all certified organic operations for review and comment. In addition, a public hearing will be held on any proposed changes to enable everyone to comment on the proposal. Please contact me at mmcevoy@agr.wa.gov if you would like more information about the WSDA Organic Food Program budget or the fee increase proposal.

By Miles McEvoy, Organic Program Manager



National Association of State Organic Programs: Priorities for the 2007 Farm Bill

The National Association of State Organic Program (NASOP) is an affiliate of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). NASOP and NASDA have adopted the following policy statement regarding organic agriculture and the 2007 Farm Bill:

NASOP has identified the following priorities for the 2007 Farm Bill as policies that will support organic agriculture:

1. Reauthorization of mandatory funding for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program.
2. Revision of the NOP Rule to become ISO-compliant, thus facilitating international trade in organic products. Establishing that USDA accreditation of certifying agents covers both the NOP and ISO-65 requirements.
3. Continued authorization of the organic production and market data collection and tracking authorized in Section 7407 of the 2002 Farm Bill by economists and researchers at the Economic Research Service.
4. Reauthorize and increase mandatory funding of the competitive grants programs like IFAFS and USDA's Organic Research Initiative, part of the 2002 Farm Bill. These programs are vital to the continued growth and development of U. S. farmer capacity to remain competitive in organic production.
5. Authorize funding for an Organic Transitions Program at CSREES with implementation of a stand-alone Request for Proposals to encourage broad agro-ecological research in organic systems.
6. Continued authorization for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program, important to funding relevant, farmer-initiated, farmer-directed research and information transfer.
7. Reauthorization of the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (ATTRA) program.
8. Increased federal funding to support adequate NOP staffing levels and activities that will accomplish legislative intent of the Final Rule.
9. Authorize funding for State Organic Programs to enforce and implement the National Organic Program within their state.

Questions or comments on the NASOP priorities for the 2007 farm bill can be directed to Miles McEvoy, Organic Program Manager and NASOP member.



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Organic Seed Grows!

The availability of organic seed is rapidly expanding, being driven by the market opportunity of expanding organic acreage and the impetus of the NOP to use organic seed. Interest is high enough that the recent organic seed conference in Portland was sold out.

As a service to organic growers in the state, WSU CSANR has produced a list of organic seed that is available on line at <http://csanr.wsu.edu/Organic/OrganicSeedList2006.htm>. One spreadsheet is sorted by company, and the other by crop and variety. Listing the available varieties is important as certifiers do not expect growers to switch varieties just to get organic seed. A similar list is available from OMRI at http://www.omri.org/OMRI_SEED_list.html.

Several organic seed research projects are also underway at WSU, with funding from the Organic Cropping Research grant. These include evaluation of seed treatments for disease control (Lindsay DuToit), screening lettuce and watermelon (Carol Miles), organic wheat variety evaluation and breeding (Steve Jones), and control of Xanthomonas with compost tea (Lynn Carpenter-Boggs). Progress reports on these projects can be found at <http://organicfarming.wsu.edu>. *By David Granatstein, WSU-CSNAR*



Mission Statement

The USDA Organic Food Program protects consumers and supports the organic food industry by ensuring the integrity of organic food products. The program certifies organic producers and handlers to US National Organic Standards and enforces organic standards in Washington State. The program supports the development of export markets by providing certification to foreign organic standards.

"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil and you're a thousand miles away from the corn field." - D. Eisenhower -