2018 not year for big improvements in Farm Bill
By Nick Levendofsky

The stark difference between the 2014 Farm Bill and the 2018 Farm Bill is that the former was written during much better economic times for agriculture and rural America. Commodity prices were higher, and farmers were spending money because they were making money. That is not the case, now, as Congress writes and works on the 2018 legislation. Wisconsin is currently losing 1.5 dairies a day – 390 in 2016 and 500 in 2017. Historically low commodity prices and high input costs mixed with uncertainty in trade, plus extreme weather variability have pushed the issue to crisis mode.

It’s time for a reality check: 2018 will not be the year for a “revolutionary” Farm Bill. As much as we would like to see significant changes, it’s just not going to happen in this Congress and in this current economic climate. This will be a status quo Farm Bill. Expect modest changes designed to improve farm performance, along with better on-time payment provisions, that provides producers consistency and transparency, along with better on-time payment performance.

Many of the members of Congress who voted for the 2014 Farm Bill are no longer in office because they either voluntarily retired or were “retired” by voters in 2016. The Senate Agriculture Committee has 11 Republicans. 

To Farm Bill on page 14

Organic dairy, like conventional, facing tough times
By Brittany Olson

With another year of depressed farmgate milk prices looming on the horizon, and several dozen dairy farmers having their worlds turned upside down when told they no longer had a buyer for their milk, many dairy farmers have felt their burning desire for change turn into a raging fire. While organic dairy farmers typically enjoy a much higher price price compared to their conventional counterparts, they, too, have seen their pay prices being whittled down over the past 18 to 24 months.

Darin Von Ruden, an organic dairy farmer from Weston, Wis., MOSES board member and president of the Wisconsin Farmers Union, offered some insights into the situation on the organic side.

“Up until about two years ago, organic prices have been stable,” Von Ruden said. “But, we’re now seeing more of corporate America creeping into the pricing structure with large operations like Aurora Organic Dairy in Colorado. Dean Foods is also becoming a big player in organic, but they prefer to buy from a few larger farms instead of smaller to mid-sized family farms, and the farmer pay price is being eroded. There are also larger farms coming into organic that may not follow standards to a T the way a smaller farm would, either.”

While pay prices are vastly different even with downward pressure on markets, Von Ruden said that organic and conventional are basically headed down the same road. Retail sales of organic milk dropped more than 2.5% in the last year while sales of plant-based milk options rose nearly 3%, leaving the organic dairy sector trying to manage oversupply. Von Ruden took a staggering $7/cwt pay cut at the beginning of 2018.

“Five years ago, you still had processors looking to take on new farmers. Now, the marketing structure is full and processors aren’t looking for new farmers. In past years, organic processors

Growing for wholesale accounts creates efficiencies for small-scale vegetable farm
By Dana Jokela

When starting a vegetable farm, farmers first need to consider where they intend to sell their produce. Most new farmers set their sights on direct-to-consumer markets—such as community supported agriculture (CSA) programs and farmers markets—as their primary sales outlets.

There are plenty of good reasons to start with direct markets, rather than wholesale accounts such as restaurants, grocery stores, and distributors. Many new farmers are attracted to direct markets because the farmer usually gets a better price for the product, keeping the whole “food dollar” rather than splitting the price with at least one intermediary, such as a retail store.

Additionally, direct markets are often more accessible to new farmers who may lack the credibility desired by a wholesale buyer. Farmers markets provide an ideal outlet to build this reputation, since customers only buy produce when it has been successfully grown and brought to market. Lastly, direct markets are better suited to the small scale typical of new farms.

Ariel Pressman, owner of Seed to Seed Farm, started out just like that. In 2012, while working part-time at Foxtail Farm in Oseola, Wis., he started his own farm and sold the produce at a farmers market. The next year, he moved his operation to Balsam Lake, Wis., where he started a CSA, attended farmers markets, and sold to restaurants. But after two years running a CSA, he noticed two things: First, he was having a hard time managing 50 crops, and second, he was noticing some inefficiencies from mixing the high-diversity nature of CSA and market farming with the high-volume/low-price reality of wholesale production.

Ariel Pressman has found it’s most efficient for his farm to grow larger quantities of vegetables for wholesale accounts.

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Organic dairy farmers face an uncertain future with retail sales down, contract cuts, and an industry-wide surplus of fluid milk.

Photo by Brittany Olson

Dairy farmers face an uncertain future with retail sales down, contract cuts, and an industry-wide surplus of fluid milk.

Photo by Brittany Olson

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Organic label at risk
By John Mesko, Executive Director of MOSES

Just before the recent National Organic Standards Board meeting in Tucson, members of the National Organic Coalition (including MOSES) met to discuss current issues in organic agriculture. The discussion highlighted what should give everyone in the organic community pause: the certified organic label is at risk.

As the organic food segment has grown steadily over the past 20 years, economies of scale have developed; larger farming, farm input, food processing, and marketing entities have begun to dominate some segments of the organic food value chain. The organic inspection and regulatory structure was built to regulate small family farms, and isn’t keeping pace with the scale of growth in organics.

At the NOSB meeting, which included representatives of organizations from the organic advocacy and support community (such as MOSES), the organic inspection community as well as USDA-National Organic Program (NOP) staff, we heard stories of farms being allowed to sell products labeled as certified organic which in fact were not certified organic by most people’s interpretation of the organic rule. We also heard more examples of continued fraud in the organic grain import markets.

These challenges have led to confusion among consumers, rightfully so, about the meaning of organic and the value of the organic label. In the past year, several attempts at new “add on” labels have been brought forward by organic leaders who are unhappy with the change in the way the organic rule has been applied to newer, larger entrants into the organic farming community. Regenerative Organic Certification, the real Organic Project, and Regeneration Midwest are just a few of the new labels/standards being developed in the organic community. In one way or another, these labels attempt to clarify and strengthen what “organic” means. At the NOSB meeting, when asked how these add-on labels will reduce consumer confusion in the marketplace, the proponents felt the organic consumer is ready to respond to these strengthened standards.

Meanwhile MOSES has been discussing our own commitments and thinking through our response to these and other add-on labels. In our recently finalized strategic plan, we’ve committed to emphasizing our holistic definition of certified organic agriculture, including an emphasis on regenerative farming practices and social and economic justice.

MOSES has from its roots adhered to the strongest interpretation of both the letter and the spirit of the organic standard. We want to see the standard enforced as intended, as a reasonable person would expect, and that commitment is not wavering or changing.

The potential for confusion if multiple new food labels enter the organic food space at the retail level is very real. While farmers and those supporting farmers clearly add value to the organic food they produce through careful, even artful food production, it’s consumers who assign value to the USDA-Certified Organic label, or any marketing label. Without a clear understanding in the collective consumer conscience about new labels and the full extent of the practices and farmers they represent, establishing relevance and value will be a heavy effort for groups promoting new labels.

MOSES’ mission is to help farmers thrive in a sustainable, organic system of agriculture. As the organic industry changes, MOSES will adapt, while continuing to serve a broad audience and expanding the organic farming community, helping farmers to start and grow their organic businesses.
Many organic farmers are becoming increasingly concerned about the growing erosion of standards in the USDA National Organic Program (NOP). We have seen the rising influence of big business in the NOP which has resulted in a weakening of some key aspects of the standards. Organic farmers, and our supporting organizations, have been working hard to try to stop this weakening of the standards and to restore organic to the level of integrity envisioned by the early pioneers. Unfortunately, we have been unable to match the influence of big business within USDA and Congress. We are not being heard.

Now that organic food has become a $50 billion industry, it should be no surprise that big food corporations want to carve out as large a chunk of that market as they can and make it as easy to meet the standards as possible.

Weakened Organic Standards

In January of this year, the new administration rejected the proposed animal welfare standards referred to as the OLPF (Organic Livestock and Poultry Production) that the NOSB and the organic community had worked on for a decade. A few industrial poultry operations with hundreds of thousands of chickens didn’t want to change their operations to allow chickens access to the outdoors. They exerted their considerable political might and defeated the OLPF standards, against the wishes of tens of thousands of organic farmers and consumers who had sent USDA written comments urging implementation of the standards. However, it isn’t just the Trump Administration that is responsible for weakening of the standards. Much of it happened during the Obama Administration. For example, USDA has weakened the process the NOSB uses to review the NOP website at www.realorganicproject.org. Erosion of the pasture rule of the organic standards for hydroponic production. Instead, USDA quietly opened a back door to allow organic certification of hydroponic fruit and vegetable production. Recently, USDA officially gave a full green light to certification of hydroponic production, even though no NOP standards for hydroponic production exist. Estimates are that already about half of the certified organic tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers in grocery stores are hydroponically grown, and these numbers are likely to grow. USDA has officially sanctioned hydroponic production. Organic farmers overwhelmingly believe that organic farming should be done in the soil, not in buckets of water or coconut husks. The many public comments by organic farmers at the fall 2017 NOSB meeting in Jacksonville, Florida reinforced that.

USDA has been eroding the authority of the NOP to fulfill the responsibilities assigned to it by the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA). USDA has taken away the authority of the NOSB to set its own work agenda and has weakened the process the NOSB uses to review synthetic materials.

Statistics show that in 2016, six certified organic CAFO dairies in Texas produced 23% more milk than all 453 of Wisconsin’s organic dairies combined. This is a mind-boggling reality that reveals the new face of organic milk in America. Even with organic milk surpluses today, some of the large certified CAFO dairies are continuing to expand, flooding the market with cheap milk. At the same time, organic family dairy farms that raise their cows on pasture are losing their markets and being forced out of business.

In response to USDA’s policy of weakening organic standards, many organic farmers have formed The Real Organic Project (ROP). We have seen the rising influence of big food corporations who are working to try to stop this. For the past couple of years, the U.S. grain market has been flooded with grain imports of questionable integrity. Independent organizations have identified whole shiploads of grains coming into the U.S. that were fraudulently labeled and sold as organic. Those fraudulent shiploads of grain have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue for U.S. organic grain growers. USDA has seemed unwilling or helpless to stop these fraudulent grain imports. A further problem in past years has been that USDA has sometimes appointed agribusiness employees to positions on the NOSB that OFPA specifically designated to be reserved for certified organic farmers. Agribusiness has gotten Congress involved, too. Last summer an industrial-scale hydroponic grower was permitted to testify before the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee. Somehow this outlier with no acceptance by the organic community was designated to represent us to Congress. Of course, he recommended that hydroponics be accepted as organic. But he continued by saying that the animal welfare standards be scrapped, being of no importance to organic. And then he requested that the role of the NOSB be further weakened, and that the board makeup be changed. It is sobering that the stated agenda of hydroponic and CAFO producers has been so successful with the recent allowance of hydroponics and the rejection of animal welfare standards. The transformation of the NOSB into a more “industry friendly” body in the upcoming Farm Bill.

Add-On Label

Because of these many weakening influences on the USDA National Organic Standards, a group of organic farmers and leaders have created The Real Organic Project (ROP). A list of the eminent members of the ROP Executive Board, Standards Board, and Advisory Board can be found on the ROP website at www.realorganicproject.org.
considered in context, the organic dairy market dollars; 4% growth in 2017 alone. However, when consumer demand and sales topping $1.1 billion 20 years as a cooperative. This is despite robust they reported a $10 million loss; their first in At the Organic Valley annual meeting this April, 

resorting to selling their milk on the conventional 

market.

There is no question that dairy producers, both conventional and organic, are feeling the pain of a prolonged down market. Organic milk buyers and cooperatives are not actively taking on new producers to purchase risk management protec 

Bureau Insurance Services. It would allow dairy 

Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm 

program under development by the American 

milk class futures, or a component-based pricing 

model. The program has been approved by the 

USDA and details are being finalized by the RMA 

with slated availability for purchase mid to late 

summer at the earliest. It is unclear at this point 

if organic milk will be considered as a separate 

track from conventional.

Finally, for those producers with available land and equipment, you could consider diversifying your rotation or raising more crops to fill some of the financial gap. It may be worthwhile to have a trusted financial advisor or banker look over the farm finances and suggest the most feasible ways to control costs. MOSES is happy to connect you with folks that can help.

It bears mentioning that if you, your family, neighbors or friends are needing crisis support through this difficult farm market, please see the Farm Crisis Center: farmcrisis.nfu.org or call the Farm Aid hotline (during business hours) at 800-FARM-AID.

For each quarterly policy, the farmer would choose milk-based pricing, which is based on average milk pricing from Chicago Mercantile Exchange milk class futures, or a component-based pricing model. The program has been approved by the USDA and details are being finalized by the RMA with slated availability for purchase mid to late summer at the earliest. It is unclear at this point if organic milk will be considered as a separate track from conventional.

Additionally, there may be alternative marketing outlets for organic milk with smaller-scale creameries, cheese-makers or other specialty dairy product manufacturers. These outlets are limited, but it would certainly be worthwhile to contact them; these specialty products often end up in co-ops and grocery stores in large urban centers. The dairy buyer at these retail locations may have suggestions of who to contact.

Something for dairy producers to be aware of is Dairy Revenue Protection, an insurance program under development by the American Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Insurance Services. It would allow dairy producers to purchase risk management protection against falling milk prices and/or production.

“Are there any alternative markets for Organic Dairy right now?”

Answer by Organic Specialist Matt Leavitt

There is no question that dairy producers, both conventional and organic, are feeling the pain of a prolonged down market. Organic milk buyers and cooperatives are not actively taking on new producers and have been on a production quota while existing producers are struggling with lowered prices, stable or climbing feed costs and even resorting to selling their milk on the conventional market.

Producers aren’t the only ones feeling the sting. At the Organic Valley annual meeting this April, they reported a $10 million loss; their first in 20 years as a cooperative. This is despite robust consumer demand and sales topping $1.1 billion dollars; 4% growth in 2017 alone. However, when considered in context, the organic dairy market has slacked in sales and volume from its height in 2013, as food companies and producers rushed in record numbers to increase production to meet demand just as the market began to slow and reach the saturation point.

Organic milk continues to offer one of the higher price premiums over conventional produc -

second only to eggs, which encouraged many new producers to consider or actively transition their herds and land to organic production. This added to an already abundant supply and will likely continue through 2018.

Organic milk is still a strong pillar of the besieged American dairy industry, accounting for over 5% of total fluid milk sales, but consumers and retailers have a growing preference towards plant-based alternative ‘milk’ like almond milk, coconut milk, etc. Though retailers and industry analysts expect the organic dairy market to rebound to some degree by 2019, producers have some difficult short-term decisions to make.

With oversupply still a real issue and price premiums shrinking to $1.32/half gallon (down from $1.57/half gallon in 2017) through 2018, what can organic dairy producers do to help ease their families and their farms through the slump?

Unfortunately, there aren’t any easy answers or quick solutions. Some producers are responding by cutting their production or even culling their herds to control costs. That may have to be an option to keep the farm on sound financial footing. There are price premiums available for organic beef and organic markets for dairy cull cattle are limited but they do exist.

Additionally, there may be alternative marketing outlets for organic milk with smaller-scale creameries, cheese-makers or other specialty dairy product manufacturers. These outlets are limited, but it would certainly be worthwhile to contact them; these specialty products often end up in co-ops and grocery stores in large urban centers. The dairy buyer at these retail locations may have suggestions of who to contact.

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Research shows wild pollinators’ impact on strawberry production

By Nathan Hecht

Nathan Hecht, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota, won the juried poster session in the Organic Research Forum at the 2018 MOSES Conference. This article explains his research, titled “Recruiting Wild Pollinators in a Strawberry Agroecosystem.”

The story of this research project arcs back to the first time I attended a MOSES Conference in 2012 as a recent biology graduate of Luther College. I was working as a farm intern at Canoe Creek Produce in Decorah, Iowa, and was inspired to attend while dreaming about the bounty of diversified organic market-garden production. At the conference, I was inspired by a presentation given by Eric Lee-Mäder from the Xerces Society about farming for biodiversity, integrating resources and habitat for beneficial insects into the farming landscape. This vision of agroecology—an agricultural landscape that was agronomically and ecologically productive—fascinated me. What if we could steward win-win models where the goals of both food production and conservation were possible?

I spent the next three years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the high Andes of Peru, and among other experiences, was deeply struck by the rapidly melting glaciers, the reality of impending water scarcity, and the need for biodiverse landscapes that could support more resilient and adaptable farming livelihoods in the face of a changing climate and an uncertain future. I had a forceful realization that, as a global community, we could no longer divorce ourselves from the health of the land—if we are to thrive, we need to commit to a sustainable, resilient, regenerative, productive use of the land we depend on. My drive to learn more about agroecology brought me to the University of Minnesota (UMN) for a master’s degree in Applied Plant Sciences and to further investigate the potential of farming for biodiversity.

Experiment

For the past 9 years, the UMN Fruit Research team has been developing an organic strawberry production system that extends the Midwest strawberry harvest from a few weeks in June to the entire growing season. The pillars of this new production system are day-neutral strawberries, a variety that remain about how these practices can be beneficial to crop insect presence, and examined how these pollinators (Fig. 1). It is highly attractive to bees, star-shaped flowering herb, as a floral resource for pollination services in an organic day-neutral strawberry production system.

The next step was to consider how we might add functional biodiversity to this annual production system, specifically, by planting an attractive floral resource to recruit wild pollinators and the pollination services they might provide the strawberry crop. This practice of pollinator “farmscaping,” where a grower provides additional habitat and floral resources to support wild insect pollinator populations, is finding renewed interest from many growers and researchers alike.

This is especially so given emerging threats to the honeybee industry, including colony collapse disorder. With the knowledge that 70% of global food crops depend on animal pollination at least to some degree, the importance of wild insect pollination services in agroecosystems has been a focus of recent research. While pollinator farmscaping practices are finding renewed interest in grower and scientific communities, many questions remain about how these practices can be beneficial to crop insect presence, and examined how these pollinators (Fig. 1). It is highly attractive to bees, star-shaped flowering herb, as a floral resource for pollination services in an organic day-neutral strawberry production system.

Research Results

I gathered data on strawberry fruit production and insect presence, and examined how these variables changed with distance from the flower patch. My hypothesis was that strawberry flowers closer to the borage flower patch would receive more insect visits, be more fully pollinated, and produce bigger, higher quality strawberries.

With increasing distance from the experimental flower strip, average strawberry yield and pollinator abundance appear to decrease (Fig. 2 & 3), with a significantly lower average berry weight in the plot farthest from the flower strip, compared to the first 50 feet.

Evidence that bees may benefit more from flower plantings of single species rather than heterogeneous mixtures.

My research investigates the potential of an annual borage flower strip to recruit wild insect pollinators and thereby facilitate pollination services in an organic day-neutral strawberry production system.

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Fig. 1: The pollinator farmscaping strawberry production system (right) includes a strip of borage to attract pollinators. The photo on the left shows the University’s plasticulture, low-tunnel organic strawberry system.

Photos by Nathan Hecht

Fig. 2: Average Berry Weight by Location

![Average Berry Weight by Location](image)

Average Berry Weight (g)

Distance from Flower Strip

Fig. 3: Average Number of Insects

![Average Number of Insects](image)

Average of Insects

Distance from Flower Strip

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Dairy — from page 1

were able to pay farmers during transition years, but those funds have dried up and making the transition from conventional to organic hasn’t been as enticing,” he explained. As a member of Westby Cooperative Creamery, Von Ruden is now under a quota system to try to keep supply matched with demand and plant capacity.

“We can now only ship as much milk as we did last year,” Von Ruden said. “We got a letter with our contracts at the beginning of the year not only talking about the pay price cut, but also the new quota.”

The dairy crisis has been a deeply personal one for Karyn Schauf, a retired dairy farmer from Barron, Wis., and for every other dairy farmer who has basically been in survival mode since prices declined in 2015. Schauf, who owned and operated the world-renowned Indianhead Holsteins with her husband, Bob, watched as each and every one of their cattle from the oldest milk-cow down to the youngest heifer calf was led through the sale ring last April.

“If we don’t do something for traditional family farms, we may very well end up like western Minnesota with little ghost towns,” Schauf said. “Industries have always had their cycles, but this one is wearing long.”

Schauf, who is also the president of the Barron County Cooperative Bureau, noticed at listening sessions held across the country to find some sort of solution to the dairy crisis, those most impacted—farmers—were not able to lead the conversation.

After speaking with the rest of the bureau’s board of directors, many of whom are either dairy farmers or have ties to the industry themselves, they got the idea to hold a farmer-led dairy discussion.

“We reached out to our county Farmers Union chapter, and they wholeheartedly supported going along with us and sponsoring this meeting,” Schauf said. “We committed to the farmers that we would attend that we would forward what was heard that day to the decision-makers in charge, and I worked hard to find the right people to invite to this meeting.”

The meeting, which took place April 16 at the Barron Electric Cooperative, involved farmers and elected officials, cooperative staff, lenders, and agribusinesses. Sam Nelson, a retired dairy farmer from nearby Prairie Farm, Wis., moderated the meeting.

When a historic April blizzard came crashing in the week before the meeting, organizers worried that attendance might take a hit. Some also worried that, given the hardships many were going through as a result of poor milk prices, the meeting would be nothing more than pointing fingers and playing the blame game. They were pleased to have a full room with more than 90 participants. The conversation and suggestions were enlightening, at turns emotional, and altogether positive.

Barron County Farmers Union President Dale Hanson asked how many farmers knew someone who was denied a loan to purchase crop inputs for spring planting. Many hands went up. Hanson then asked if the attendees knew a farmer who was struggling with anxiety, depression, or any other form of mental illness as a result of the stress caused by low prices. Nearly every single hand in the room went up.

Dairy farmer Sam Olson of Dallas, Wis., suggested changing regulations at the federal level to allow checkoff monies, mandatorily deducted at a rate of $0.15/cwt, to go toward more than just dairy food consumption research and uses. Olsen pointed out that dairy products imported into the United States are subject to a checkoff rate at half that of domestically produced milk.

“They directly compete with our products, and should be subject to the same amount of checkoff deductions if not more,” Olsen said.

John Peterson of Schuman Cheese, and former of Lake Country Dairy, a local processor in Turtle Lake, Wis., stated that while Lake Country Dairy mainly worked with a handful of large farms in the area, something had to be done to preserve smaller, traditional family farms.

“Farmers are the original entrepreneurs and bring money to the local economy,” Peterson said. “There are dangers to the national food supply with a [consolidated] system of only large farms. Larger farms are dependent on migrant workers, and we can’t risk losing the backbone of our local communities.”

Several farmers advocated for some kind of supply management. “Our system doesn’t have to be like Canada’s but something has to be done,” said Adam Place of Clayton, Wis. “Farmers need to take a stand and push together for the survival of family farms.”

At the end of the meeting, Schauf asked how many of the farmers were in favor of some form of supply management or a quota. A cautious majority, but a majority nonetheless, raised hands.

Discussion has continued after the meeting in Barron, not only locally but also at the state level. Both Wisconsin Farmers Union and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation are working with staff and members to see what kind of solution can be brought forward.

“There is hope that something will come of this meeting, and people are still talking about it,” Schauf said.

While there is no silver bullet to subdue the many-horned beast that the dairy industry has become in the past several decades, many if not all dairy farmers agree that something has to be done in order to keep the dairy industry from becoming consolidated and vertically integrated like conventional poultry and pork production.

Brittany Olson is a freelance writer, photographer, and dairy farmer from Chetek, Wis.

Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship is an accredited national training program that provides a structure of support for the transfer of knowledge, skills, and farms from current and retiring organic dairy farmers to the next generation.

www.dga-national.org

Shade Haven allows you to move nutrients where you want them. — Jim Munisch, Ceon Valley, WI

By farmers, for farmers.
MOSES Organic Field Days give you the chance to see firsthand how other farmers tackle issues on their farms. These events are free unless noted. Register or see more details and driving directions at mosesorganic.org/organic-field-days.

In Her Boots: Dairy & Diversification
June 21 | Wylymar Farms | Monroe, Wis. | $25
Get advice and practical ideas from women farmers and educators to help you improve your operation or achieve your farming dreams. We’ll cover a variety of farming topics, including tool use and ergonomics from a female farmer lens, and how to care for that most important tool: yourself! We’ll also share ideas for creating additional income from farming through agrotourism, farmstays, on-farm food service, and value-added products. Plus, we’ll learn about the women-run Wylymar organic dairy operation.

On-Farm Variety Trials: Broccoli
June 28 | We Grow LLC | Westboro, Wis.
This field day features hoop house broccoli in a variety trial at We Grow LLC, a produce farm in Taylor County, Wis. The farm grows a wide variety of vegetables using organic certified, non-GMO seeds. The farm also has pastured heritage breed hogs and free-range chickens.

MOSES has partnered with the Organic Seed Alliance and the University of Wisconsin-Madison to host several field days this summer to showcase how farmers can trial seeds to find the best varieties for their particular conditions.

On-Farm Variety Trials: Potatoes
July 1 | PrairErth Farm | Atlanta, Ill.
This trial location features yellow potatoes for early vigor and yield. PrairErth Farm is a diversified operation with field crops, livestock, and cover crops. MOSES has partnered with the Organic Seed Alliance and the University of Wisconsin-Madison to host several field days this summer to showcase how farmers can trial seeds to find the best varieties for their particular conditions.

Integrating Cereal Grains into an Organic Dairy Rotation
July 31 | Wilson Organic Farms | Cuba City, Wis.
This OGRAIN event takes place at Wilson Organic Farms, a 400-cow dairy with 2,900 organic acres. The Wilsons emphasize the connection between soil health, plant health, and healthy people and animals. Learn about the integration of roller-crimped rye into their soybean crop, soil health gains on the farm, and the integration of cereal grains into a dairy rotation as both quality feed for the herd and off-farm sales.

In Her Boots: Advice for Your First Year
August 3 | Raleigh’s Hillside Farm | Boscobel, Wis. | $50
Come for an inspiring day of advice, ideas and seasoned perspectives from the Wisconsin Soil Sisters, an innovative network of local women championing organic and sustainable agriculture. Learn from experienced women farmers and gather resources for your farm launch. Stay for the full weekend, which includes workshops, culinary events, farm tours, and more!

Soil Sisters Farm Tours & Workshops
August 3 | Southern Wisconsin | $ Varies
Over 20 women-run farms offer tours, food and craft demos, tastings, and more during this jam-packed weekend. See www.soilsisterswi.org.

On-Farm Variety Trials: Kale
August 7 | Riverbend Farm | Delano, Minn.
This trial location features curly kale for mid-season palatability. Riverbend Farm is an organic vegetable farm that produces produce to a CSA, restaurants, food co-ops, and schools. Farmer Greg Reynolds also saves seed from, and works to improve, varieties of several crops.

Adding Buckwheat & Sorghum Sudangrass to a Grain Rotation
August 29 | Lily Lake Organic Farm | Maple Park, Ill.
The focus of this field day will be on growing dual-purpose buckwheat as a cash crop and as a cover crop, including weed control strategies and harvesting methods. Buckwheat increases soil health and reduces the need for tillage, and makes a profit! In addition, learn about another cover crop superstar, sorghum sudangrass.

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Sunday, August 5
Visit a diverse array of family-owned farms in the Monroe and Brodhead areas. Free.

Green Acres Workshops
Friday, August 3 to Sunday, August 5
Learn how to launch your own farm, make cheese, spin fiber, preserve the harvest and much, much more! Ticketed events on various farms.

Taste of Place
Saturday, August 4
A local food & drink celebration. Ticketed event.

Farm to Table Dinner
Saturday, August 4
Farm-to-table dinner at Dorothy’s Range featuring heritage meats. Ticketed event.

Dine Fine at Restaurants
Friday, August 3 to Sunday, August 5
Sample “locavore” specials throughout the weekend.

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Sign up for field day to gain farming insights

Hallie Anderson explains her production system during a MOSES Organic Field Day at 10th Street Farm & Market earlier this month. Photo by Audrey Alwell
Wholesale Market — from page 1

“I don’t wholesale green beans, but you can’t go to a farmers market without green beans,” Pressman said. “To service some of these mar- kets, I was growing small amounts of stuff that was disproportionately taking up a huge amount of time. And the whole idea with wholesale is you should be able to be more efficient. At the time, we were getting the lower price from wholesale, but all the inefficiency of growing all the crops that you need for a CSA or farmers market.”

Pressman dropped his CSA program after two years and made a big push to pick up new whole- sale customers, which provided an increasingly large proportion of his annual sales. He dropped farmers markets in 2017—five years after he started his farm—and now grows 14-acres of pro- duce exclusively for wholesale markets. Pressman grows 8-10 crops, rather than 50, which he feels allows him to do a better job of managing his crops (and staying sane).

“I always found with the CSA that I couldn’t keep an eye on everything. With a [wholesale] model, I’ve been able to get really familiar with my crops,” he explained. “There are just things you’re going to see when you’re growing 13,000 Brussels sprouts plants every year that you’re probably not going to see if you’re only growing a bed of it for the end of the season for your CSA.”

But Pressman clarified that it’s not only about the farmers’ attention; it’s a scale thing. You simply get to observe a lot more plants when you’re grow- ing a crop on a larger scale.

He feels the wholesale model also affords him the ability to take advantage of some tools and systems that aren’t as easily justifiable for the smaller, more diversified farmer. He has purchased some equipment to streamline aspects of production, such as a brush washer for post- harvest cleaning of cucumbers, peppers, and other crops, and a “veg-veyor”—a conveyor belt mounted to a flatbed wagon that is pulled slowly down the field perpendicular to the beds, allowing harvest- ers to place produce on the belt for it to be carried out of the field.

He has hired out his delivery to a trucking company that picks up his produce at the farm in a refrigerated truck and makes deliveries to his Twin Cities wholesale customers. Since the company charges per stop, this model would only make financial sense when each customer is enough to fulfill customer orders in a bad year, but likely not all of them.

Having no crop insurance, he manages risk by: 1. Growing a diversity of crops (compared with the average Midwestern crop farm). So a disease or ill-timed weather event may damage one crop, but likely not all of them.

2. Over-planting his crops to ensure he has enough to fulfill customer orders in a bad year, accepting that he may only harvest half the field in an exceptionally good growing season.

3. Using unheated high tunnels for tomato produc- tion, decreasing disease pressure and protecting the high-value crop from severe weather.

While wholesale production does bring its own set of challenges—cash flow and risk mitigation, in particular—Pressman shows that there are ways to mitigate these on a small-scale wholesale farm.

For direct-market farmers interested in getting into wholesale, Pressman had some advice for finding, and keeping, customers. When looking for potential wholesale customers, it’s always ideal to have an “in.” When making cold calls, Pressman advised being prepared with a concise “elevator pitch,” a price list, and a calendar for setting up an in-person visit. For example, “I run Seed to Seed Farm. I’m a first-generation farmer, growing five acres of certified organic produce. My heirloom tomatoes are top notch. I’m going to have them ready in a couple of weeks—maybe I could come in and chat with you?” The in-person meet- ing will be much more memorable for the buyer, and gives the farmer an opportunity to provide samples to the buyer.

He recommends starting with restaurants. Orders are generally small, giving the farmer a better chance of successfully fulfilling the orders. “You don’t want to hop into markets that are too big for where you’re at,” he advised. “If that mar- ket has a bad experience with you, they may not be available in three years when you are ready to sell to them.”

He also are generally more willing to give feedback if something isn’t up to their quality or grading standards. And it’s crucial to calibrate grading standards for wholesale markets, as they’re typically higher and more stringent than the standards for produce sold through CSAs and farmers markets.

Pressman strongly emphasized the importance of maintaining relationships with wholesale cus- tomers. “A small farm can’t afford to have a cus- tomer relationship. A small farm needs to have an actual relationship. A relationship means give and take. It means two people are helping each other.” He advises going the extra mile to meet customers’ needs—and it’ll pay dividends when the farmer needs flexibility in a bad year or a referral to another potential customer when crops are abundant.

Farmers markets and CSA programs are great options for many farmers, but Pressman’s story illustrates that wholesale shouldn’t be overlooked as a viable option for small farmers. “When I first started, I wanted to look and feel like my friends’ farms and the farms I used to work on,” Pressman added. “Farms can, and should, change.”

Dana Jokela owns and operates Sogn Valley Farm, a 22- acre certified organic farm near Cannon Falls, Minn.
Holistic approach to farm chores keeps women’s bodies stronger longer
By Lisa Kivirist

As we jump into the thick of the busy summer farming season and the daily to-do list is long, it’s easy to lose sight of our most important tool: ourselves. Prioritizing body care and approaching tool and machinery use in a pro-active manner reaps benefits way beyond our farm’s bottom line. By cultivating a holistic approach to our daily chores, we ramp up safety, efficiency, and longevity and the ability to keep doing what we love into our later years.

Understanding and prioritizing ergonomics and body care will be covered at our MOSES In Her Boots women farmer workshops this summer, providing a unique opportunity to delve into these issues from a female farmer lens. These In Her Boots workshops offer a welcoming setting based on peer-to-peer networking with expert advice. Whether you’re a seasoned woman farmer needing to reprioritize care for you or a beginning farmer ready to launch, there’s something for you to learn here this summer. (See details on page 7.)

“Female farmers naturally take good care of our animals, soil and crops, but it’s easy to overlook ourselves,” shared Dr. Josie Rudolphi, an associate research scientist at the National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield, Wis. Rudolphi will be one of the “resources in the field” at these In Her Boots workshops to bring a scientific perspective to health and farm safety. “When we talk about sustainability, we focus on the farm itself and other resources, but not the farmer. That equation needs to change, especially for women farmers who also often take primary responsibility for other demanding roles like child care.”

“I’m excited to host an In Her Boots workshop this summer for women farmers because so often it’s intimidating to learn about machinery from men, who tend to just do things instead of allowing you to be capable and learn yourself,” said Hannah Breckbill of Humble Hands Harvest Farm in Decorah, Iowa, who hosts the July 26 session. “I love to create a space of mutual learning, of figuring out what we need to know and then figuring out how to learn it together.”

Need a dose of pragmatic inspiration as we kick off the growing season? Here’s a sneak preview of the themes we’ll be covering at the In Her Boots workshops with five tips for practicing healthy body care in daily farm routines.

Plan Your Day
Plot your farm tasks so you can scatter a diversity of tasks throughout the day. “Varying your activities and not doing anything one thing for too long is one of the best strategies you can do for your body,” advised Liz Brensinger, co-founder of Green Heron Tools, an agricultural entrepreneurial venture that creates ergonomically correct tools for women farmers. “Personally, now that I’m in my 50s, I’m more acutely aware of my body after I’ve been working in the same position for too long and know to change tasks.”

Break up longer chores into smaller segments: If you are moving a large compost pile to your garden, change positions and switch up the movements to keep everything in balance and prevent any particular area from feeling too much pressure. Break up your static motion with short breaks.

Minimize Risk
“A core learning for us is that too many women take physical risks out of necessity,” explained Ann Adams, the other co-founder of Green Heron Tools and a former nurse. “We simply want to get physical risks out of necessity, explained Ann Adams, the other co-founder of Green Heron Tools and a former nurse. “We simply want to get physical risks out of necessity, explained Ann Adams, the other co-founder of Green Heron Tools and a former nurse. “We simply want to get physical risks out of machinery we use,” she added. “We want to avoid injury and keep our bodies in working order.”

Know Your Body
Seeking to create an environment of comfort and body awareness, the In Her Boots sessions will be going over the basics on tractor safety, the piece of machinery that causes the most fatalities within agriculture, yet is ubiquitous on farms. Be Conscious

“When our bodies are hard at work on the farm or in the garden—and our minds are distracted elsewhere—we’re much more likely to hurt ourselves. And, the older we get, the longer it takes to heal,” Brensinger explained. “The main way to avoid getting hurt—whether by falling or cutting oneself with a pruner or getting a sore back from doing the same task too long—is to be fully present in your body and conscious of your surroundings and what you are doing.”

Don’t try to do too much at once or be preoccupied thinking about your next task. Fully engage in and enjoy the task at hand and complete it successfully and safely before moving onto something else. If it’s a big task, break it up and intersperse other activities for diversity.

“Prevention is the best strategy to protect our bodies,” Rudolph added. “Vary tasks and don’t keep your body in any one position for too long. Prevention is important because we want farmers to do what they love for as long as they can. If you take care of yourself, you avoid injury that can not only hurt yourself, but hurt your bottom line, too, if you can’t work to get your harvest in. Unlike other professions, farmers don’t get sick time or really have someone else do their job.”

Many short-term as well as chronic aches and pains are a result of too much repetition of the same movements or postures. Whenever possible, stand for a while, sit for a while, and then stand again. When standing, periodically shift your weight from side to side and do some knee bends. When sitting, it’s best to have your legs uncrossed to facilitate optimal blood flow and avoid putting pressure on any particular area. Break up your static motion with short breaks.

Nutrition and Health
We want to help farmers understand the connection of nutrition and health to farm work. Many farmers ask themselves, “How do I know when I’m hungry?” “How do I know when I’m tired?” and “Where do I find healthy meals?”

“Female farmers naturally take good care of our animals, soil and crops, but it’s easy to overlook ourselves,” shared Dr. Josie Rudolphi, an associate research scientist at the National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield, Wis. Rudolphi will be one of the “resources in the field” at these In Her Boots workshops to bring a scientific perspective to health and farm safety. “When we talk about sustainability, we focus on the farm itself and other resources, but not the farmer. That equation needs to change, especially for women farmers who also often take primary responsibility for other demanding roles like child care.”

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Know Your Body
Take the time to understand your body and be able to recognize what your body needs and what works for you.

“To do self-care well, I’ve had to be really intentional about it,” Breckbill said. “I do this mostly by prioritizing sleep and making sure I eat real food at regular intervals. Being aware of how my body is moving and thinking through how I can switch up the movements to keep everything in balance is also key.”

“Now that I’m in my 60s, I practice yoga every...
National agriculture coalition works to create socially just organization

By Jade Florence

Working in the field of sustainable agriculture is both exciting and challenging. In addition to the research and development that goes into making our agricultural systems regenerative and profit-able, we must also think about the sustainability of these systems for the communities they serve. Equitable access to healthy foods, productive lands, and the resources needed to build these systems are just a few of the challenges we face. But there is one central tenant of sustain-able agriculture that may be its saving grace.

Biodiversity is a major strength of our natural ecosystems. It’s what safeguards us against wide-spread crop failure caused by disease, pests and natural disasters; it supports a healthy diet; and it can increase the productivity of individual species through symbiosis. Just as biodiversity strength-ens ecosystems, human diversity, as supported through social justice, strengthens communities by contributing and valuing unique perspectives, experiences, and ethics.

However, the United States has a poor history of valuing social justice in its own food systems. From the nearly 250 years of forced African-American slave labor on agricultural lands to the Indian Removal Act of 1830 that gave way to The Homestead Act of 1862, the U.S. has had a long history of human exploitation and cruelty in the name of profit, with these examples only scratch- ing the surface.

More modern forms of racial injustice have also plagued agriculture in America, namely within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Both program delivery and the treatment of employees within the USDA have been found to be tainted with discrimination, according to the USDA Office of Civil Rights. In addition to the infractions themselves, the agency was also failing to process the very complaints filed by farmers and employees that documented the discrimination.

This brief history of agricultural exploitation and discrimination in the U.S. is provided, not toadden the heart (although it should), but to provide context to why diversity, equity, and inclu-sion work in the field of sustainable agriculture is vitally important.

Thankfully, the USDA has already begun to make the changes needed to become a more socially equitable and just agency. While the USDA Office of Civil Rights was eliminated during budget cuts in 1983 under the presidency of Ronald Reagan, it was reopened in 1996. And in more recent years, the USDA has undergone a sizable overhaul, particularly under the direction of President Barack Obama and former Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, who made civil rights their top priority for the USDA.

In 2009, Vilsack suspended foreclosures for 90 days on all Farm Service Agency loans in order to review any that may have been subject to dis-criminatory conduct. In addition, Vilsack learned that over 14,000 USDA civil rights complaints filed between 2001 and 2008, and that only one had been found to have merit during the time period they were filed. He assembled a task force and called for the retroactive review of nearly 80% of these complaints, which took 18 months to complete and included recommendations for improving service to minority and socially disadvantaged farmers. These exam-ples are just a small glimpse into the progress the USDA has made to correct past wrongs and move towards supporting a more equitable agricultural landscape, but there is still a long way to go.

Advocacy groups can play a key role when it comes to holding these federal agencies accountable, but only if they themselves actively value social justice. The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) is an advocacy group comprised of over 100 member organiza-tions (including MOSES) that come together to craft and promote sustainable agriculture federal policy. NSAC was founded in 2009, and is the result of a merger between the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture (NCSA) and the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (SAC). Prior to this merger, both parent organizations had been in operation since the 1990s and 1980s respectively. NCSA was a pioneer in bringing together a wide variety of voices to support environmental stewardship and social justice in agricultural systems. Partners included the Sierra Club, National Farmers Union, coops, and farmers markets. SAC, on the other hand, was a major driver of policy change and successfully developed programs includ-ing the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program, the Natural Resource Conservation Service’s Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the Value-Added Producer Grants program, the National Organic Certification Cost Share, the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, the Wetlands Reserve Program, and the Farmers Market Promotion Program. The strength of both organizations was combined in the merger, and NSAC has been a major player in sustainable agriculture policy develop-ment and lobbying ever since.

The social justice lens of these parent orga-nizations led NSAC to establish the Diversity Committee soon after the merger. The understand-ing that agriculture cannot be sustainable unless it is both environmentally and socially just was not lost on this organization. The goal of the Diversity Committee has been to instill social justice and diversity as operational elements of NSAC’s activities and committees, which include the Organizational Council, Policy Council, Issue Committees, any ad hoc committees, and other operations of NSAC. As the Diversity Committee has evolved, it has also increased its role as an entity that ensures the organization incorporates a social justice lens when setting policy priorities, advocacy strategies, communications, and other NSAC-approved or supported activities.
Socially Just Organization — from previous page

Over the years, the Diversity Committee has learned one major lesson—there is no one-size-fits-all solution for becoming an environmentally and socially just organization. The journey is always evolving, and the communities an organization serves, as well as their needs, shift.

In order to come to a deeper understanding of what it means for NSAC to be a socially just organization, one of our foundational events was to hold a coalition-wide panel of people of color (POC). The purpose of this panel was to share some key points with the broader coalition while centering current POC perspectives. Key topics included racial equity in food and agriculture, representation and leadership of POC, the how of working with POC members, and which resources/support are critical for POC in the sustainable agriculture movement. Panel questions included: What do you see as the primary challenges to racial equity in food and agriculture? What do you view as key opportunities? And how can the coalition and its members best support racial equity in food and agriculture?

The panel session concluded with input from members about their thoughts regarding these questions. The discussion was robust, and the Diversity Committee found that many member organizations were eager to understand how they could serve a more diverse base of farmers in their home states. This led to the development of a special session during the next in-person meeting, in which coalition members brainstormed about topics to help NSAC move its racial equity work forward. Topics included how to increase collaboration with farmers of color (FOC)/POC, coalitions/increase representation of FOC and POC members, how to ground our racial equity work in accurate data and use metrics to assess our success, and training/resources that member organizations require.

We found this collaborative brainstorming and planning process to be invaluable, and it led to many initiatives to move NSAC’s social justice work forward. We furthered our data and metrics work by having each committee research what demographic data is already being collected by the USDA, and used that to determine which communities may be underserved. NSAC has also begun the process of using available data during the policy priority setting process and in order to strategize ways to increase the collection/availability of such data.

Another critical next step has been NSAC’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training series which has been offered to member organizations and staff. An example of this training comes from another in-person meeting in which NSAC member organizations were invited to take an organizational assessment and then brainstorm as a group ways that their individual organizations could become more racially equitable and socially just. NSAC staff and key stakeholders have also undergone numerous group training sessions and are actively working towards strengthening the organization and its promoted policy priorities through equity and inclusion.

NSAC and the United States agricultural system as a whole have had a long history of grappling with social inequality and developing new ways to address and correct these issues. Although the history of agriculture in the U.S. has been fraught with exploitation and cruelty, all members of the agricultural community have a unique opportunity to build a new food system—one that equitably serves the needs of all workers and eaters.

From my experience as the NSAC Diversity Committee’s co-chair, there is no one universal path to increasing the racial/social justice of our organizations. Each organization is unique, and so is each path. The best advice that I can give is to make the changes as genuinely as possible. Setting quotas for number of POC reached or engaged looks good on paper, but unless there are meaningful relationships behind that engagement, these relationships cannot prove to be extractive and empty. The real change comes when the members of organizations understand where they’ve been, what they’re working towards, why they’re working towards it, and come together to take that journey one step at a time.

Jade Florence works for the Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides in Boise, Idaho, and co-chairs the Diversity Committee of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition.

At a nationwide meeting of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, members listen to perspectives from people of color, including Lydia Villanueva (NSAC Diversity Committee co-chair), Qiana Mickie, Jade Florence (NSAC Diversity Committee co-chair), Hannah Jo King, and Nelson Escobar.
The Real Organic Project is an add-on organic certification. Farmers certified NOP will also be required to be certified by the NOP. The goal of the project is to restore the integrity that was the inspiration for the Organic Foods Production Act. In April 2018, the Real Organic Standards Board met to draft the NOP standards. These are add-on organic standards that participating organic farmers will follow, in addition to the NOP standards. The standards approved in April will be provisional standards that will be used in a pilot program this summer. This fall, the organic community will be invited to comment on the standards for further refinement. The provisional standards can be found on the NOP website.

The Real Organic Project website has the following description of its purpose and goals:

The Real Organic Project has been created to help educate and connect those who care about organic farming as practiced around the world. Our mission is to grow people’s understanding of traditional organic values and practices. One of our goals is to create an add-on label to USDA certified organic to provide more transparency on these farming practices. USDA organic certification is a prerequisite to participate in the add-on program.

Strawberry Research — from page 5

Primary strawberry flower visitors were hoverflies (Syrphidae) and native sweat bees (Halictidae), suggesting strawberry pollination may rely more on fly (Diptera) species than bee (Hymenoptera) species. The hoverfly patch itself hosted a wide diversity of insect pollinators including those mentioned above, as well as an impressive abundance of bumble and honey bees.

Looking Ahead

Although these results are only from the first year of data, it appears there may be a berry weight benefit for those strawberry plants located closer to the borage flower patch, due to increased pollinator activity. Numerous questions remain about how best to design pollinator farmscaping elements on a farm in order to reduce issues like space limitations, pollination competition, or pest holing. Still, there is mounting evidence to suggest that adding floral diversity to a pollination-dependent cropping system may benefit both the farmer and local beneficial insect populations.

There are many ways to incorporate these sorts of pollinator farmscaping practices into your own plot, whether that is in a home garden or a large-scale production operation. This can begin with simply mowing less, to allow early season flowers like clover and daisies to thrive when floral resources are low. Planting annual flowering species can be one way to experiment with flower plantings at low cost, with little risk. Some flower strips could even serve as secondary crops, as many flowers are edible, have medicinal properties, or can be sold as cut-flowers. More long-term permanent establishments include perennial flower plantings or even restored prairie landscapes. The Xerces Society (xerces.org) has many resources available to help design and integrate these sorts of practices on farms.

Concluding Thoughts

As we work to manifest the vision of diverse, productive, resilient agroecosystems, collaboration and knowledge-sharing will become increasingly important. The education and networking efforts of organizations like MOSES are critical, in that they connect more people to the conversation on supporting biodiversity in agriculture, myself included. As a graduate student, I am currently inspired by the many collaborations I see happening between growers and scientists, each bringing their own expertise to find new and creative solutions to complex challenges. I am hopeful that these partnerships will continue, with growers reaching out to extension professionals and professors to share their experience, and scientists reaching out to growers to develop research projects that are more directly associated with the needs and interests of local farming communities. Although there are countless challenges, I am encouraged by visionary growers, researchers, and leaders who have the power to create a world where both ecology and economy can thrive.

Nathan Hecht is a graduate student in the Organic and Sustainable Horticulture Lab at the University of Minnesota. His research is funded in part by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. To discuss his research, contact him at hecht072@umn.edu.
These easy-care flowers offer burst of color to CSA boxes, market stands

By Jennifer Nelson

At this year’s MOSES Conference workshop on growing and marketing flowers, many farmers asked about easy-to-grow flowers that would add value to a veggie CSA or farmers market stall. Realizing other farmers would like to know about those, too, I’ve compiled a list of easy-care, beautiful blooms to add to your mix. Flowers add diversity to your crop rotation, and biomass to improve soil tilth. Plus, they attract the beneficial pollinators that make your veggies taste so delicious. Flowers in a vegetable rotation are a win for all. And, your CSA members and farmers market customers will appreciate the additional beauty and munching or late evening. If they are harvested during the cool of the day, either early morning or late evening. If possible, most flowers like to go into a cooler right after harvest to lose that field heat. Flowers that aren’t kept in coolers to reduce field heat will not last as long as those that are, with a few exceptions.

Recommended Varieties

Zinnia – Who doesn’t love a bright, cheerful zinnia? There are many different varieties that are lovely, and so easy to grow. Benary’s giant mix will give you a mix of colors, and they tend to be more resistant to powdery mildew - one of the main problems that can arise with this accommodating bloom. Oklahoma or State Fair mix are also good choices. Zinnias are lovely, and so easy to grow and last a long time in a vase.

Tithonia – Also known as Mexican Sunflower, this beautiful branching flower has bright orange-red blooms. Beneficial birds and insects love the nectar of this sweet and colorful flower.

Dianthus – There are many perennial varieties of dianthus also known as Sweet William, as well as those grown as annuals. The annual with the longest stem length is the Amazon series, and these are commonly grown for cut flowers. The seed is very expensive, but they are vibrant, easy to grow and last a long time in a vase.

Giant Marigolds – These beauties are used in other cultures’ celebrations for good reason. The giant orange, yellow, and gold balls last a long time, and are a lovely addition to any summer bouquet. The foliage also lasts a long time, and serves as a great green filler for bouquets. Jiji Orange and Giant Yellow are reliable varieties.

Phlox – Perennial phlox is a wonderful cut flower that smells lovely, and lasts a long time in a vase.

Achillea – This lovely perennial is often the first to green up in spring. Also known as Yarrow, this sweet bloom is a great filler in mixed bouquets, and can hold its own in a lovely bunch, too. Colorado is an organic variety.

Rudbeckia – There are many varieties of this standard perennial commonly known as Black-Eyed Susan. Once a stand of this perennial is established, it mostly takes care of itself. The only threat can be powdery mildew, so plant away from other susceptible plants like zinnias.

Herbs – Bronze fennel, dill, basil, borage, catmint, chamomile, bee balm, hyssop, lavender, and sage all have beautiful flowers that can be put in bouquets, and smell delicious.

Don’t hesitate to get creative with your mixed bouquet fillers. Cover crops, woody bushes and tree fruit branches can all make great additions to mixed bouquets. Weeds like Persian cress and yellow dock can also add beautiful greenery to mixes for your CSA members.

Jennifer Nelson grows flowers for her Humble Pie Farm. She’s also a MOSES Organic Specialist.

For the audio recording of the flower workshop from the 2018 MOSES Conference, see mosesorganic.net.
Farm Bill — from page 1

and 10 Democrats, while 26 Republicans and 19 Democrats serve on the House Agriculture Committee. The margins are fairly tight, so these folks have to work together in a bipartisan effort to pass legislation. On another reason, the Farm Bill discussions go through 2018 past the November election, and we see some changes in either one or both houses, we’ll see some new faces/leaders on these committees. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) is the current chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) is the ranking member. Rep. Mike Conaway (R-TX) is the current chairman of the House Agriculture Committee and Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN) is the ranking member. These four individuals wrote the last Farm Bill, so we know they can work together well, for the most part.

In early 2018, Sen. Roberts said, “I’d like to see us vote (as a committee) in February, but we seem to have a few things to get out of the way: like a continuing resolution, something about a wall, and all those questions about immigration. I think that’s going to eat up all of the time in February and we’ll get the Farm Bill into March.”

As I type this, it’s late April, and the Senate has not introduced their version of the Farm Bill, while the House Ag Committee introduced and passed their bill in mid-April. I truly believe they will kill the bill down the road. We may see something happen on the Senate side in May, but politicians who are running for re-election will want to get home and campaign. So the Farm Bill will get put on the back burner, or more likely, back in the fridge.

A little over a year ago, I read an article on LinkedIn entitled, “What Coalitions Matter Today in Food Policy?” written by Matt Herrick, former USDA spokesperson during the Obama administration and current managing director of communications at The Rockefeller Foundation. In his article, Herrick highlights five of the most critical coalitions that will shape the nation’s next Farm Bill. I’ve taken the liberty of adding some of my own thoughts to Herrick’s original article.

Georgia/Southern Coalition

President Trump chose former Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue to serve as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture. He’s a business man who has been highly involved in global commodities trade. Perdue has deep interests in inputs, specifically fertilizer, and has owned grain elevators across his home state. He is close friends with another key player: American Farm Bureau Federation’s president and was appointed to Georgia’s Agriculture Advisory Committee when Perdue was governor. While the Farm Bureau often plays a key role in shaping the Farm Bill, the organization will have significant influence on this particular Farm Bill, given the established relationship between Perdue and Duvall.

Aside from Perdue and Duvall, there is a large presence from our Soil and the Senate Agriculture Committee. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), John Boozman (R-AR), David Perdue (R-GA and Sec. Perdue’s first cousin), and the newest member of the coalition, Cindy Hyde-Smith, who replaced longtime Mississippi Senator Thad Cochran, all make up this coalition. This group will likely push for cattle, poultry, rice, peanuts, and cotton fixes in the Farm Bill. Keep your eye on the Senate bill for these possible changes.

Nutrition-Production Ag Coalition

Sometimes called the bedrock of modern-day Farm Bills, this collection of farming and commodity groups aligned with nutrition and hunger organizations, which represent a rural-urban coalition that often preserves the heart of the legislation. The idea here is that SNAP—also called food stamps—appeals to urban constituents while commodity payments and crop insurance programs appeal to rural audiences.

Nutrition programs take up anywhere from 80-85% of Farm Bill funding. Total outlays for the 2014 Farm Bill totaled $489 billion, and that’s after we took out SNAP due to austerity. SNAP is in the Farm Bill, primarily because of two men who served in the U.S. Senate over 40 years ago; Sen. Bob Dole (R-KS) and Sen. George McGovern (D-SD). The two came together during a time in our history when there was a glut of ag products on the market and too many hungry people, so they linked them together through the Farm Bill. When asked by a reporter why you would put food stamps in the Farm Bill, Dole answered, “Hmmn… food and agriculture, do they have something in common with each other?”

If you take SNAP out of the Farm Bill, that will be the last Farm Bill, ever. We need the support of urban legislators whose constituents utilize SNAP benefits to vote for things like crop insurance and conservation programs that benefit farmers and rural people. The reality of SNAP is, many rural citizens utilize these benefits, too. Out of 435 Congressional districts, only about 35 are considered “rural.” Our voices as rural citizens are significantly diminished with every census. Rural districts grow larger because we have fewer people, but our voice gets smaller. Removing food programs from the Farm Bill essentially removes them from USDA. Taking that large chunk out of USDA’s budget leaves the agency a shell of its former self and makes the agency worthless on a Cabinet level. All of the programs brought forward by the Farm Bill could literally be “farmed out” to other Cabinet agencies. Farmers Union supports keeping food programs in the Farm Bill.

Conservation-Crop Insurance Coalition

When it comes to conservation, the Farm Bill mostly provides voluntary, incentive-based opportunities rather than mandates for private landowners. The Farm Bill’s conservation compliance requirement is one major exception. In order to receive federal crop insurance subsidies (up to 60%) and payments under federal disaster assistance and some commodity support programs, the Farm Bill asks producers to sign an agreement promising they will not farm on highly erodible lands or wetlands. This agreement is cherished by hunting, fishing, and conservation groups, like Ducks Unlimited and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. Commodity farmers often call on these groups to help protect federal crop insurance from budget cuts; for that favor, commodity groups have the movement to protect conservation programs. The other thing about members of these groups is they are very active voters. If there’s an issue they care about, such as conservation, they’ll let their legislators know about it, and vote accordingly.

Good Food Movement

This group is identified closely with small farmers, local food, fair trade for farm-workers, food justice, and environmental sustainability. The Good Food Movement is a hedgehog of progressive food policy advocates and organizations with growing influence in Washington, D.C. and beyond. Although it’s a movement, it has a presidential-level goal, its spokespeople are many. From farmer fair practices, to GMO labeling, to cage-free eggs, the Good Food Movement uses grassroots and social media to achieve their goals.

Budget Hawks and the White House

Early in the Trump Administration, it’s clear the White House is working hand-in-hand with the House Agriculture Committee to write a farm bill that is focused on rural-centric priorities. With Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), to bring greater scrutiny to the federal appropriations process. It’s still an open question how influential this coalition will be in shaping the federal budget, but that will become clear as we move further along in the session. If the coalition proves effective, it may go after key titles in the Farm Bill—commodity payment

To Farm Bill on page 16
When I picked up *The Lean Farm Guide to Growing Vegetables*, my first question was: “How is this different from *The Lean Farm*?” The covers of the two books have a very similar look; I was skeptical that author Ben Hartman had new things to say. I was pleasantly surprised, however. While there is some redundancy between the two books, *Growing Vegetables* moves on pretty quickly from the principles developed in *The Lean Farm* to new material.

As with his first book, Hartman pulls the reader in quickly. *The Lean Farm Guide to Growing Vegetables* is a visually rich book, with lots of relevant photos and good captions. It’s laid out in a way that lends itself well to skimming, with logical section headers and comment boxes. For those reading cover-to-cover, Hartman keeps the reader interested with personal stories about his family farm, as well as little-known historical tidbits.

Perhaps most alluring is the book’s insistence that farmers actually can—and should—work reasonable hours and take regular vacations. Hartman’s annual week-long July vacation is nothing short of revolutionary in a community that prides itself on the 60+ hour work week and sees lack of vacation as symbolic of commitment.

In fact, much of what Hartman advocates flies in the face of conventional veggie grower wisdom. In a comment box toward the beginning of the book, he explains “lean math.” The formula is simple: eliminated waste = capacity. He explains, “If you find a way to shave just one hour per week and you free up an entire year every 10 years.” Shave four hours off your work, over a period of 20 years you will have freed up 6 months of time. In our production at this time—after years of thinking lean. —anything that does not add value. 5. Practice kaizen—continuous improvement. For those wary of a dogmatic approach, Hartman invites the reader to think of the book not as a one-size-fits-all way of farming, but rather an approach that works for one farm and can be adapted to suit the needs of other vegetable farmers. “While in the pages that follow I show you the particular techniques we use, my intent is not to convince you that this is the best way to farm. I do not think that there is such a thing as a model farm—nor should there be… The pages that follow merely reveal a snapshot of what works for us in our context. They show where we have landed in our production at this time—after years of thinking lean.”

The book has just two parts – Part I: Leaning the Timeline and Part II: Staging for Flow. The first part addresses specific farming jobs, from planning the year to collecting cash. It stays pretty high level, so even if he’s talking about tomatoes, the general principles could be applied to any crop that is lucrative for your farm. The second part is all about choosing land, setting up infrastructure, and greenhouses: “setting the stage” for a successful farming operation.

Beginning and experienced growers alike will get something out of Ben Hartman’s latest book.
Farmers as Minority

I want to shift gears and touch on minority political principles. Farmers are now less than 1 percent of the population, and are considered a minority group when it comes to policy discussions. Congress, for example, based on issues rather than party affiliation, the organization is always in power. This is absolutely necessary for a minority such as agriculture.

As we move further along in the policy process leading up the next Farm Bill, whether it’s in 2018 or 2019, we’ll do well to keep all of these coalitions and principles in mind. By following these practices, we’ll find it’s much easier to navigate the uncertain and sometimes uncharted waters of agricultural and food policy.

Nick Levendosky is the director of external affairs at Rocky Mountain Farmers Union. He was the government relations associate at Wisconsin Farmers Union.

Successful minority politics includes five basic principles:

• Find allies issue-by-issue, not philosophy-by-philosophy. For example, environmental groups and farm groups have wide philosophical differences, but both support the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

• Build coalitions; look for common ground.

• Be positive and reasonable, and work within the system. A football field. Look to the center of the field. If you’re standing in the center of a football field, you can look to the left and right and see the whole field. In the policy world, this means you can see both sides of an issue. Now, move down to either end of the football field. You can only see part of the field, primarily the side you are standing on. Remember that policy is determined between the 40-yard lines, not in the red zone.

• Base a case on the facts, not on myth or emotion. Policy makers are faced with a multitude of diverse issues on a daily basis. They must rely on professionals and organization lobbyists for accurate, timely information and analysis. It becomes a matter of mutual respect and trust. Misinformation designed to support a cause, whether deliberate or accidental, will backfire eventually. Successful lobbyists agree that providing accurate information is essential to being influential.

• Adopt a nonpartisan strategy. Policy-making eventually occurs across party lines. Interparty compromise eventually occurs. If an organization adopts a partisan strategy, it will either be in or out of power at a given point in time. If it develops contacts and provides support to a member of Congress, for example, based on issues rather than party affiliation, the organization is always in power. This is absolutely necessary for a minority such as agriculture.

Policy-making in a democracy requires a majority vote. Therefore, a minority must build a coalition into a majority in order to get a bill passed or a policy adopted.

• support the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

• Build coalitions; look for common ground; compromise first within and then among; escalate arguments with adversaries; play down mutual differences; and play up mutual interests.

In search of wheat for the upcoming season?

Great Harvest Organics offers three elite varieties of certified organic soft red winter wheat:

GH4088
Double cropping specialist with an ultra-early maturity. Great for organic growers who need more time to establish cover crops.

GH4113
An early maturity, farmer favorite with proven yield and fantastic disease tolerance.

GH4125
This medium maturity variety is a complete package of yield, test weight and standability.

In Her Boots Workshops: Sustainable Agriculture for Women, by Women

Sustainable Agriculture for Women, by Women

At the In Her Boots sessions, we will have a variety of ergonomically correct tools to try out, as well as tips for adapting equipment for safety and better body care.

Lisa Kivirist runs the MOSES in Her Boots project and wrote Soil Sisters: A Toolkit for Women Farmers. She also runs Inn Serendipity Farm and B&B near Monroe, Wis.

“Changes in muscle mass are a completely normal part of the aging process, but it is important to be aware that our bodies simply do not have the same level of strength we used to have and to find alternative ways to accomplish tasks,” Adams advised. For example, even though you may have been able to lift that 50-pound bag of feed single-handedly in the past, as you get older, dividends that feed bag into two 25-pound loads or use tools to help you lift and move, such as a wheelbarrow.

Women’s joints are looser than men’s depending upon where we are in our menstrual cycle, which may make us more vulnerable to injury, from exposure to vibration. Bone density also naturally breaks down as we age, so it’s important to consistently exercise to keep our bones strong.

Fortunately, farming gives you the types of exercise you need to keep bones strong, such as reasonable lifting. “Anything that puts stress on the bone will keep it strong,” Adams added.

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In Her Boots Workshops: Sustainable Agriculture for Women, by Women

June 21: Wylie Farms, Monroe, Wis.
July 26: Humbolt Hands Harvest, Decorah, Iowa
Aug. 3: Raleigh’s Hillside Farm, Brodhead, Wis.

mosesorganic.org/in-her-boots

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Changes to MOSES Online Store
The MOSES online store, mosesorganic.net, now carries only a limited number of hard-to-find titles: *Before You Have a Cow* by Teddy Gentry and Allen Williams; *Fearless Farm Finances* by Jody Padgham, Craig Chase, and Paul Dietmann; *The Northlands Winter Greenhouse Manual* by Carol Ford and Chuck Waibel; *Organic Dairy Farming* by Jody Padgham; *Raising Poultry on Pasture* by the American Pastured Poultry Producers Association; and, *When Weeds Talk* by Jay McCaman. We'll continue to carry a large assortment of farming and food books at the annual MOSES Organic Farming Conference.

The online store continues to offer audio recordings of MOSES Conference workshops from the current year and the prior four years. Each workshop is $5 for an MP3 download, or $75 for a USB drive of the complete set/year of 65 workshops.

T-shirts from the 2018 MOSES Conference, ball caps, and reusable MOSES shopping bags are available through the online store, too. The store also stocks signs to identify fields as organic. The signs are 18” wide by 23” high UV-resistant corrugated plastic with waterproof ink. The cost is $15/pair plus shipping. Purchases made through the MOSES online store support our programs that help farmers get practical advice on organic and sustainable farming practices. Please place orders at mosesorganic.net or call MOSES at 715-778-5775.

Planning for 2019 MOSES Conference
MOSES is implementing a new planning process for the 2019 MOSES Organic Farming Conference. To include more voices in the process (especially busy farmers), we’re doing away with the annual in-person planning meeting in La Crosse. Instead, we’ve developed a survey so that everyone can vote for their favorite workshop topics. The survey is open now through Aug. 31, 2018. Participants may submit ideas, too—we’ll refresh the survey topics every two weeks. Bookmark www.surveymonkey.com/r2019workshops, vote, and check in to vote again.

Free Admission to MOSES Conference
Your free ticket to MOSES 2019 could be in your farm’s Instagram or Facebook account or camera—enter your farming photos in the MOSES Conference Program Photo Contest! We’ll feature the winning photo on the program cover, and give the winner a free pass to the conference, a T-shirt and mug. Every photo contest entrant who comes to the conference gets a free mug, too.

This fun contest recognizes farmers in our community, and gives MOSES authentic farming photos to promote organic and sustainable farming. When we use the photos, we identify the farm and state, so your farm gets additional exposure. As you’re working on the farm this summer, take photos of field work, your growing crops, happy livestock, your barn—whatever says “organic farming” to you. To submit photos (by Sept. 15), go to mosesorganic.org/conference and click on the photo contest link.

Farmer of Year Nominations
The nomination period is open for the 2019 MOSES Organic Farmer of the Year. The award recognizes a Midwest certified organic farmer or farm family for practicing outstanding land stewardship, innovation and outreach. It will be presented at the 2019 MOSES Organic Farming Conference Feb. 21-23 in La Crosse, Wia. The nomination form is online at mosesorganic.org/organic-farmer-of-the-year. Deadline for nominations is Sept. 15, 2018.

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MOSES Staff Update
Longtime MOSES staffer Cathy Olyphant is retiring at the end of May. Cathy has been with MOSES for nearly 15 years, and has done just about every job we have—and always with a smile. We have appreciated her knowledge of MOSES lore, and will miss her cheerful presence in the office and at the conference.

Cathy is an avid birder, and is excited to have more time to photograph birds, conduct bird surveys, and travel with her husband. Happy trails!

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No Organic Checkoff

The USDA has terminated the proposed rule to establish a national research and promotion program for certified organic products (the Organic Checkoff). The decision was based on lack of consensus within the industry and divergent views on how to resolve issues in implementing the proposed program. Details about the termination are posted at www.ams.usda.gov/content/usda-finds-lack-consensus-among-farmers-new-organic-marketing-board.

Changes to National List

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has opened a 60-day public comment period on proposed changes to the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. The changes would allow use of elemental sulfur as a pest repellant for organic livestock, and require handlers to use organic potassium acid tartrate. The comment period closes June 29, 2018. See bit.ly/Changes2NatlList.

Farm Law FAQs

Farm Commons has released a set of FAQs about the legal issues facing direct-to-consumer and organic farm operations. Topics include good contracts, food safety liability risks, and agritourism. See farmcommons.org/resources-search.

Tools for On-Farm Variety Trials

The Organic Seed Alliance, in partnership with MOSES, USDA, and others, has created a workbook to help farmers conduct trials to find varieties best suited to their growing conditions. The 55-page Grower's Guide to Conducting On-farm Variety Trials includes instructions, trial design examples, resources for seed sourcing, and worksheets for planning and data collection. See seedalliance.org/publications.

Soil Sisters

The Soil Sisters group of women-owned farms in southern Wisconsin recently received the 2018 Edible Madison Local Food Hero award for championing women farmers. The group hosts the annual August Soil Sisters Tour, sponsored by Wisconsin Farmers Union, MOSES, and Renewing the Countryside. See www.soilsisterswi.org.

How to Manage Flood, Farming Risks

Farmers’ Legal Action Group (FLAG) has a new resource to help organic farmers deal with flood and manage risk. The report points out that disaster assistance can come long after the disaster. Organic farmers’ well-maintained records can help document losses and establish eligibility for late-enacted programs. See www.flaginc.org/organic-farmers-in-disasters-flooding-and-whole-farm-revenue-crop-insurance.

MOSES offers the Farm Production Record-keeping Workbook with nine forms to track information about crop rotations and inputs, storage and sales, and income and expenses. Download the workbook or forms at mosesorganic.org/farm-production-recordkeeping-workbook.

Minnesota Organic Research Fund

Farmers in the northwest region of Minnesota can apply for research or conference fee funds from the new University of Minnesota Stordahl Fund. For information about the fund or how to donate, email frosa001@umn.edu or call 701-212-2471.
Buffalo Cultivators and Planters.

and deliver. $2000 317-431-6302.

spiders good and bearings are good. Can text pictures

Make offer. 317-431-6302.

15' Heavy duty smooth roller.

pictures available upon request. 715-874 6024.

sation, gauge wheels. Excellent Condition - limited use,

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wood wheels w/steel band, works, $100. Wood Chip-

carry rd. bales, $500. 8ft. John Deere Van Brunt seeder,

Moving Sale:

269-267-8527.

one season. $12,000 OBO. Leave message with Greg.

6-row, 3 point attachment. Excellent condition. Used

Red Dragon Row Crop Flamer Unit,

successful weed control. For more information contact

Gary McDonald cultivators for sale.

$5200. kpeyton@fsb1879.com 319-404-3682.


320-221-2266.

325 acres in NE Starke Co.

Joseph4249@gmail.com.

For Sale: Oregon Certified Organic Nursery Busi-

tess. Owners retiring, selling Eugene area wholesale/

retail nursery business. Active accounts, 5 greenhouses

plus associated equipment, materials and historical

data. No land, must relocate. Great customer base and

great business opportunity. Owners will share business

planning and operation experience. $165,000 min bid.

OGNurseriesForSale@gmail.com

Farm/CSA Marketing and Photographer. Looking
to help promote and establish web presence for local

organic farms. Website sarahlouisechampeau.com

Please contact sarah.champeau@gmail.com or call

612-584-8689.

ORGANIC FISH FERTILIZER 15-1-1, 100% dry water

soluble, 5-7 times more nutritious than liquid fish. Will

not clog drip irrigation. One lb., 5 lb. or 55 lb. packag-

ing, can be shipped UPS. Frommelt Ag Service, Greeley,

IA, 563-920-3674.

For Sale: Tempered, insulated, double-pane glass.

Large panes for sunrooms, solar homes, ag buildings,

greenhouses or ??? One hundred fifty thousand sold

since 1979; 32” x 74” x 1” double-pane only $49.00.

We will be closing or selling Arctic Glass in 12 months.

If you need glass, now would be a good time! Arctic

Glass, www.kissourglass.com, 715-639-3762 or

317-431-6302.

Hiniker 5000 6 row 30” cultivator, barring off discs,

good condition. Can text pics and deliver. $2500

317-431-6302.

Tyler Moonwalk fertilizer spreader. 5 ton capac-

ity. 50 foot spread. Like new condition. $4850. Call

920-860-2118.

Allis Chalmers G Tractor with electric conversion,

hydraulic toolbar and cultivator. Recent conversion,

ready to work. Pretty enough for a parade. farmers@-


12 row 30” hyd. weed puller. Purchased units new in

2013. 522000 701-640-3476.

FARMS/LAND

Looking to rent organic farmland in northwest Iowa

or southeast South Dakota. Looking for at least

100 acres or more. Already farming organically. Daniel

712-229-0161.

Organic farm for sale/rent. 325 acres in NE Stark Co.

Iowa. 2 pivots, 12” well, systematically drained, 255

tillable, balance woods, creek & pasture. $2,250,000

purchase, $350/ac rent. 574-241-3350.

Organic farm for sale in Kentucky. 3 acres in the

Bluegrass. $1200. 12 row 30” hyd. weed puller.

160 acres or more. Already farming organically. Daniel

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR
-Find details and event links online: mosesorganic.org/community

MFA: Plastic Mulch & Transplanting with the Tractor
May 24, 7:00 p.m. | Free | Online
Learn how to use a tractor to apply plastic mulch and transplanted plants on this hands-on, experiential learning opportunity.
MFA: 651-433-3676

Webinar Series: Pasture Project - Adaptive Grazing 101
May 24, 20, 31 | 7:45 pm CT | Free | Online
Learn the essential principles of using adaptive grazing management practices to build healthy soil and profitable farm enterprises.

Restoration Agriculture Workshop
May 27 - May 1 | 3:30 - 8:00 p.m. | Free | Elkhorn, Wis.
Mark Shepard will be teaching this hands-on two day workshop at the Horner Family Farm. You will learn designed to make you band more resilient in times of drought and disease, planting and selection of tree crops for your site, and how to cash flow until your tree crops start to produce.

Upper Midwest CRAFT Field Day: Biodynamic Spring Free
May 26 | 1:30 p.m. | Free | Online
Hosted by Autumn Larch Farm LLC. Call Jane Hansen: 715-767-5958

MFA: Food Safety Field Day
May 29 | 9:30 - 5:00 p.m. | $20 | Marine on St. Croix, Minn.
Put concepts and lessons learned into practice during a hands-on food safety field day. Learn about water testing, manure application, packshed sanitation, pest control, worker training, and recordkeeping.
MFA: 651-433-3676

Webinar: Building a Forage Chain for Livestock
May 30 | 2 p.m. | Free | Online
Kent Solberg will discuss options for creating a forage chain by sequencing annual, perennial, and stored forages to feed your ruminant animals.

Growing Garlic and Marketing the Farm
May 31 | 7 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Free | Johnston, Iowa
The day will begin in the field, discussing garlic production and soil fertility using mobile chicken coops. After a break for lunch, farmers Jordan and Whitney will discuss their farm’s branding and marketing techniques and materials.
PR: 715-252-5661

Upper Midwest CRAFT Field Day: Livestock Tour
June 3 | 1 - 5 p.m. | $20 | Elkhorn, Wis.
Tour four different livestock farms. The day will focus on managing various types of livestock including hogs, cattle, and sheep! Free to members. Anglican Organics Learning Center: 815-389-8455

Webinar: Variable Rate Nitrogen and Irrigation in Corn
June 3 | 7:30 p.m. | Free | Online
Dr. Tim Sharchitecture of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will discuss the possibilities and issues presented by the use of variable rate irrigation and variable rate nitrogen application in the production of corn.
MFA: Lawyer on the Farm
June 1 | 5:45 – 8:00 p.m. | $20 | Marine on St. Croix, Minn.
This is the third of a series of interactive sessions on farm law, and will focus on topics of interest identified by farmers. MFA: 651-433-3676

Farm Day at Four Elements
June 1 | 9:30 - 5:00 p.m. | $50 | Marine on St. Croix, Minn.
Learn how to use a tractor to apply plastic mulch and transplanted plants on this hands-on, experiential learning opportunity.
MFA: 651-433-3676

Moses Organic field day - See page 7
June 28 | 2 - 4 p.m. | Free | Online
Learn about the benefits and challenges of cover crops, especially crop production following row crops and the challenges of seeding diseases. You’ll also learn about incorporating small grains production into traditional row crop rotations and the unique cover crop opportunities this provides.
PR: 715-252-5661

Minnesota Agroforestry Institute
June 19 - 21 | All day | $100 | Lambertton, Minn.
The Minnesota Agroforestry Institute is a three-day training that includes classroom workshops and on farm visits of Agroforestry practices in the field. Call Donny: 612-626-9272

Building Resilient Agricultural Communities
June 20 | 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Free | St. Paul, Minn.
An interactive, working forum to address the unique challenges and opportunities related to stress and resilience among Minnesota farmers, farm families and agricultural workers. UMSA: 612-625-8836

The GrassFed Exchange Conference
June 20 - 23 | $ | Rapid City, South Dakota
The conference for regenerative ranchers and grassfed industry supporters. Call Kathy: 256-996-3142

In Her Boots Workshop: Wylymar Farms
June 21 | 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | $25 | Monroe, Wis.
Learn from organic farmer & MFA graduate Rodrigo Cala about his farm. He will focus on his use of different hoop house styles and reviews, crop selection, and best management practices.
MFA: 651-433-3676

Growing Mushrooms Outdoors via Log Inoculation
June 21 | 1-4 p.m. | $80 | Chaska, Minn.
If you have ever taken a walk in the woods, chances are you’ve seen fungi growing on fallen logs. Wood is a natural home to prolific mycelium. This class will showcase a hands-on look at fungus growing on fallen logs. Wood is a natural home to prolific mycelium.

Upper Midwest CRAFT Field Day: Chainsaw, Tractor, Small Engine & Equipment
June 26 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | $20 | Roscoe, Ill.
Tour a multi-generational farm using sustainable grazing enterprises. You will leave with an inoculated log and a comprehensive handout. MN Landscape Arboretum: 952-443-1400

MOSF field day - See page 7
July 9 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Free | Jamesville, Wis.
MOSF field day – See page 7
Grain Place Foundation’s 25th Annual Summer Farm Tour and Field Day
July 14 | 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Free | Marquette, Neb.
Come celebrate the beginning of the season, meet your farm supporters, and party with food, music, games, and more.
MFA: 651-433-3676

Upper Midwest CRAFT Field Day: Grazing Planning
June 5 | 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. | $20 | Brookhead, Wis.
Tour a multi-generational farm using sustainable grazing practices, hear from grazing planning consultants, and receive consultation on your grazing plan. Anglican Organics Learning Center: 815-389-8455
Farm Tour: Cala Farm - Summer High Tunnel Production
July 16 | 10 a.m. | Free | Princeton, Minn.
Hosted by We Grow LLC, N7975 Zimmerman Rd, Westboro, Wis. WFGU: 715-723-5561

Wholesale Vegetables on a Small Scale
July 20 | 9 a.m. | Free | Westboro, Wis.
Learn from organic farmer & MFA graduate Rodrigo Cala about his farm. He will focus on his use of different hoop house styles and reviews, crop selection, and best management practices.
MFA: 651-433-3676

To find out more about Allaginic™ Nitrogen please contact us today!
www.allaginic.net

MOSM North America
Tel: 1 (888) 241 0233
Email: allaginic@mosm.com

MOSES field day - See page 7
Mid-Season Cover Crops
June 28 | 2 - 4 p.m. | Free | Westboro, Wis.
MOSF field day - See page 7