



National Organic Coalition

www.NationalOrganicCoalition.org

NOC NEWS

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You're Invited to NOC pre-NOSB Meeting
Sunday, October 24, 2010 -- NOON to 4 pm
Madison, Wisconsin -

Best Western InnTowner 2424 University Ave, Madison, WI

Phone 608-233-8778, Reservations 800-258-8321

We have secured a block of rooms @ \$109 per night from Saturday through Thursday nights. Just use the code: "NOC" when registering.

NOSB meeting October 25 - 28. See details at NOP website

Highlights of the NOC pre-NOSB meeting will include:

- NOSB Issues
- Food Safety de-brief
- Brief 2012 Farm Bill Overview

Coffee/Drinks & Snacks included - LUNCH is on your own, please eat before you come.

Please RSVP to Liana@NationalOrganicCoalition.org

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### **Organic Valley Farm Tour And BBQ Dinner!**

At 4 pm, immediately following the meeting, Organic Valley will host a Farm Tour and BBQ dinner. Stay tuned for more information about this great event.

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COURT DENIES MONSANTO REQUEST TO ALLOW CONTINUED PLANTING of GE SUGAR BEETS.



Federal District Judge Jeffrey White issued [a ruling](#) on August 13 granting the request of plaintiffs Center for Food Safety, Organic Seed Alliance, High Mowing Organic Seeds, and the Sierra Club to rescind the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) approval of genetically engineered "Roundup Ready" sugar beets. In September 2009, the Court had found that the USDA had violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by approving the Monsanto-engineered biotech crop without first preparing an Environmental Impact Statement. The crop was engineered to resist the effects of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide, which it sells to farmers together with the patented seed. Similar Roundup Ready crops have led to increased use of herbicides, proliferation of herbicide resistant weeds, and contamination of conventional and organic crops.

In this most recent ruling the Court officially "vacated" the USDA "deregulation" of Monsanto's biotech sugar beets and prohibited any future planting and sale pending the agency's compliance with NEPA and all other relevant laws. USDA has estimated that an EIS may be ready by 2012. See more at [Center for Food Safety](#)

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## **Update on S.510 Food Safety Bill**

On Thursday, August 12, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee released a copy of the "manager's amendment" to the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (S. 510\*). These amendments have the support of HELP Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Ranking Member Mike Enzi (R-WY) as well as the four lead sponsors of the underlying bill, Dick Durbin (D-IL), Judd Gregg (R-NH), Chris Dodd (D-CT), and Richard Burr (R-NC) and will be adopted if and when the bill comes to the Senate floor in September when Congress returns from its summer recess. The full manager's package is available

[here.](#)

NOC, along with most sustainable agriculture and family farm groups think the Senate bill with the manager's amendment is a very significant improvement over the companion bill passed by the House of Representatives ([HR 2749](#)) last year. NSAC ([National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#)) has been able to help make substantial improvements in the Senate bill through the HELP markup and in changes that will be adopted as part of the manager's amendment when the bill comes to the Senate floor. If other improvements are made ([Tester amendment](#)), we will be able to support the Senate bill. However, we strongly oppose the companion House measure, and stand ready to defend the Senate bill in conference with the House should that prove necessary.

See the full [NSAC Information Alert](#) for a detailed description of the amendments and status of the bill.

\* The Food Safety Modernization Act (S 510) was reported out of the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee in November of last year. The bill as reported out of committee would ramp up FDA regulation on farms that even minimally process their crops and sell them to restaurants, food coops, groceries, schools and wholesalers.

For more information on Food Safety Regulations, see [NOC Website](#)

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Job openings in Organic



OFRF

[Executive Director Job Announcement](#)



Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO)

[Administrative Director](#)

[Certification Program Director](#)

[Managing Assistant](#)

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### **\$109 Sleeping Room Rate**



NOC has reserved a block of sleeping rooms at the **Best Western InnTowner** -- the same location as NOSB -- for a rate of \$109 per night (1-4 people per room) for the nights of Saturday through Thursday. When you call Best Western Reservations line **800-258-8321** be sure to mention the code: **NOC**. You are responsible for payment of your room.

*Please reserve your room early - this block expires on October 3.*

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Keep up to date on what we've been up to.



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### **Contact Information:**

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