



National Organic Coalition

www.NationalOrganicCoalition.org

NOC NEWS

August 3, 2011

See News below about these topics:

Wild Farm Alliance & Community Alliance with Family Farmers publishes "Farming with Food Safety and Conservation in Mind"

NOC Comments on NLGMA

America's Kitchen Garden

NGRAC Returns! National Genetic Resources Advisory Council

Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture

A Victory for GM Labeling

Save the Date - Pre NOSB Meeting Nov. 28

USDA NOSB Meeting 11/29 - 12/2 2011

A Valuable Resource - Contact information for House and Senate Committees

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### **Wild Farm Alliance publishes**

### **"Farming with Food Safety and Conservation in Mind"**

Wild Farm Alliance and Community Alliance with Family Farmers have just published [Farming with Food Safety and Conservation in Mind](#). This guides explains how farmers can produce safe food without sacrificing responsible on-farm conservation measures.

To download the Guide , go to:

[http://www.wildfarmalliance.org/resources/fdsfty\\_brochure.htm](http://www.wildfarmalliance.org/resources/fdsfty_brochure.htm)



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NOC Comments to USDA on National Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement

"The proposed National Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement (NLGMA) is an inappropriate way to address produce safety. Not only does the proposal wrongly attempt to fit the square peg of public health into the round hole of marketing and promotion, it also attempts to establish a governance and scientific structure that assures a continuation of the large scale, monocultural model of agriculture that we believe greatly contributes to the very food safety concerns at hand." [See NOC's complete comments](#).

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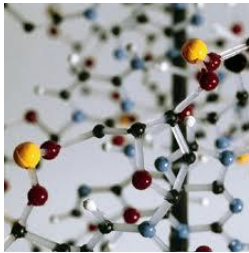


## National Genetic Resources Advisory Council (NGRAC)



USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is in the process of re-establishing its National Genetic Resources Advisory Council (NGRAC). The Council was established in the 1990 Farm Bill and met from 1992 through 1999, but has since been dormant. The Council's purpose is to formulate recommendations on actions and policies with respect to the federal collection, maintenance, conservation, and utilization of genetic resources. The Council deals with the full range of agriculturally relevant life forms: plants, animals, insects, microbes, forest species, and aquatics. NGRAC will consist of nine public members: six will represent scientific disciplines including agricultural, environmental, health, and nutritional sciences, and three will represent the public policy, trade, and international development fields. The [FR Notice](#) notes that NGRAC will include those who can provide "suggestions on how USDA can tailor its programs to maintain the purity of non-GE genetics from germplasm to commercial use; and improve stewardship practices and develop new tools to lessen the risk of gene flow in agricultural commodities." Appointments are expected to be announced soon.

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[USDA Announces Appointments to the Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture - AC-21](#)

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack recently announced appointments to the reactivated Advisory Committee on Biotechnology and 21st Century Agriculture, or AC21.

"This advisory committee will come together to continue investigating the challenges of coexistence among different forms of agricultural production," said Vilsack. "I hope this committee will recommend workable solutions that will enhance the ability of all farmers to grow the crops they want in order to effectively meet the needs of their customers."

The AC21 is composed of 22 members from 16 states. The members represent the biotechnology industry, the organic food industry, farming communities, the seed industry, food manufacturers, state government, consumer and community development groups, the medical profession, and academic researchers.

Appointments from the Organic Community Include:

- Isaura Andaluz, Executive Director, Cuatro Puertas, Albuquerque, NM;
- Laura L. Batcha, Organic Trade Association, Putney, VT;
- Charles M. Benbrook, The Organic Center, Enterprise, OR;
- Lynn E. Clarkson, Farmer and President, Clarkson Grain Company, Cerro Gordo, IL;
- Michael S. Funk, United Natural Foods, Inc., Nevada City, CA;
- Melissa L. Hughes, CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley, Viroqua, WI;
- Mary-Howell Martens, Farmer & Manager, Lakeview Organic Grain LLC, Penn Yan, NY;

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# Consumer rights victory as US ends opposition to GM labeling guidelines



On July 5, 2011, After more than 2 decades of negotiating, The Codex Alimentarius Commission, made up of the world's food safety regulatory agencies from 100 countries, has finally agreed on long overdue guidance on the labeling of genetically modified (GM) food. In a striking reversal of their previous position, during the annual Codex summit in Geneva, the US delegation dropped its opposition to the GM labeling guidance document, allowing it to move forward and become an official Codex text. This Move clears the way for greater monitoring of the effects of GM organisms. For more details, see the [Press Release](#) from Consumers International.

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[The Great Food Labeling Debate](#) -- an analysis of Codex written for a Canadian online newspaper by Lucy Sharratt.

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SAVE the DATE!

You're Invited to NOC pre-NOSB Meeting

Monday, November 28, 2011 -- 2 pm to 7 pm

(That's the day before the NOSB)

Hilton Savannah DeSoto, Savannah, Georgia

Coffee/Drinks & Snacks included

Please RSVP to Liana Hoodes via email at:

Liana@NationalOrganicCoalition.org

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## USDA National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)

**Meeting Tue. November 29 - Fri. December 2, 2011**

[Hilton Savannah DeSoto](#) - 15 East Liberty Street

Savannah, Georgia 31401

More information coming soon.

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National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

A really valuable resource from NSAC

Check out this [LISTING](#) of the Members, and staffer contacts, of the **House and Senate Ag, Budget, and Appropriations Committees**. Committee tabs are across the bottom.

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