



# National Organic Coalition

[www.NationalOrganicCoalition.org](http://www.NationalOrganicCoalition.org)

## NOC NEWS

See News below about many organic topics:

[GE Alfalfa Update](#)

[Support CFS Fight Against GE Alfalfa](#)

[Save the Date - Pre-NOSB Meeting](#)

[Food Safety - President Signs S.510](#)

[House and Senate Ag Committee Listings](#)

[News from NSAC - USDA Program & Grant Deadlines](#)

### Update on GE



### Alfalfa

**\*\* ACTION ALERT \*\***

**USDA has approved Genetically Engineered Alfalfa  
Call or Email President Obama -- Tell him:  
"NO GE ALFALFA! -- Reverse USDA's Decision"**

**President Obama Comment line: (202) 456-1111**

**Email: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>**

Prior to any De-regulation of new GE crops, A [GMO Contamination Prevention Plan](#) must be developed. At a minimum the following 7 points must be addressed transparently and fairly for all stakeholders:

1. Establish a USDA Public Breeds Institute to ensure that the public has access to high quality non-GMO breeds and germplasm.
2. Create a *Contamination Compensation Fund* [see NOC's Draft proposal at: <http://www.nationalorganiccoalition.org/GEAlfalfa/ProposedCompensationPlan.pdf>] , funded by GMO patent holders, to provide immediate assistance to persons contaminated by GMOs, from seed to table.
3. Complete elimination of deregulated GM crop status, including prior deregulations, with on-going oversight and public evaluation of compliance and enforcement.
4. Conduct comprehensive, independent, longitudinal studies on the health, environmental, and socio-economic impacts of GMOs, prior to GM crop approvals.
5. Prohibit the growing of promiscuous GM crops that are likely to cause GMO contamination.
6. Prevent food security risks associated with the concentration of our food system in the hands of a few companies.
7. Institute an immediate labeling protocol for all GM crops, products, and ingredients.

**For More details, see:**

**[GMO Contamination Prevention and Market Fairness - What Will It Take?](#)**

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**DONATE TO THE CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY**

**Please support the Center for Food Safety's Legal Effort to STOP the imminent planting of Monsanto's GE Alfalfa.**

Their legal work has been at the forefront of this fight, and is the reason that USDA had to admit the health and environment impacts from GE crops.

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**Save the Date!**

**You're Invited to NOC pre-NOSB Meeting**

**Monday, April 25, 2011 -- 10 am to 5 pm  
Seattle, Washington**

**Hotel: Red Lion on 5th , 1415 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101  
Phone: 1-206-971-8000**

**USDA has secured a block of rooms @ \$139.00 per night from Sunday through Friday nights. Register as attending USDA Conference.**

[NOSB meeting April 26 - 29. See details at NOP website](#)

Highlights of the NOC pre-NOSB meeting will include:

- Farm Bill
- GE Alfalfa
- NOSB Issues
- Aquaculture and GE Salmon

***Coffee/Drinks & Snacks included - LUNCH is on your own***

***Please RSVP to Liana Hoodes via email at: [Liana@NationalOrganicCoalition.org](mailto:Liana@NationalOrganicCoalition.org)***

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**Food Safety - President Signs (S.510)  
Food Safety Modernization Act**



January 4, 2011, President Obama signed the Food Safety Modernization Act into law, marking the end of the bill's tumultuous road to passage and the beginning of what may prove to be another lengthy road to correctly implement and fund its provisions.

Read more from NSAC -

<http://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/obama-signs-food-safety-bill-2/>

Read [Smorgasbord - news bites and blogful commentary](#) from Food & Water Watch -explain the next steps for S.510 at: <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/blogs/the-new-food-safety-contradiction/>

So, you may be asking yourself, and others, "What happens now?" Steve, Gilman, NOFA Interstate Council's Policy Coordinator, writes a brief summary: **What happens next with S.510?** Check it out here -<http://www.nofa.org/policy/S510.php>

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition - (NSAC) explains how Consumer Groups Issued Badly Flawed Analysis of the Tester-Hagan Food Safety Amendment

<http://sustainableagriculture.net/blog/consumer-groups-get-it-wrong-on-tester/>

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## House and Senate Announce Agriculture Committee Members for 112th Congress



House: <http://agriculture.house.gov/singlepages.aspx?NewsID=1222&LSBID=23|69&RBSUSDA=T>

Senate: <http://ag.senate.gov/site/cmtemembers.html>

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### News from NSAC: [Upcoming USDA Program and Grant Deadlines](#)

Here is a handy summary of the USDA programs with upcoming enrollment or application deadlines:

#### Sign-up Deadlines for USDA Conservation Programs:

- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\) Organic Initiative](#), administered by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), provides financial and technical assistance to certified organic producers and producers transitioning to organic to help plan and implement conservation practices on their operations. Deadline for 2011 sign-up: **March 4, 2011**. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis through your [local NRCS office](#).
- [Conservation Reserve Program \(CRP\)](#), administered by the Farm Services Agency (FSA), provides annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term conservation practices on eligible farmland. Land can be enrolled for a period of up to 15 years. For more information, read our most recent blog post on CRP [here](#), or visit the USDA CRP website [here](#). The 40th general sign-up will be held from **March 14-April 14, 2011**.

#### Application Deadlines for USDA Competitive Grant Research Programs:

- [Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative](#) (OREI) funds projects that enhance the ability of producers and processors who have already adopted organic standards to grow and market high quality organic agricultural products. For more information, read our blog post about OREI from this grant cycle [here](#), or visit the USDA OREI website [here](#). Deadline: **February 10**.
- [Pest Management Alternatives Program](#) (PMAP) provides support for the development and implementation of integrated pest management practices, tactics, and systems for specific pest problems while reducing human and environmental risks. For more information, visit the USDA PMAP website [here](#). Deadline: **March 3**.
- [AFRI Foundational Program](#) supports research grants in the six Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) priority areas: plant health and production; animal health and production; food safety, nutrition, and health; renewable energy, natural resources, and environment; agriculture systems and technology; and agriculture economics and rural communities. For more information, read our blog post about the current grant cycle [here](#), or visit the USDA AFRI Foundation Program page [here](#). Deadline: Various, but **March 23** for some priority areas.

#### Application Deadlines for Other USDA Competitive Grant Programs:

- [Outreach and Technical Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers](#) Competitive Grant Program funds outreach and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to connect them with USDA programs. For more information, see the RFP from this grant cycle [here](#), or read the program's page in our Grassroots Guide to the Farm Bill [here](#). Deadline: **February 15**.

- [Federal State Marketing Improvement Program](#) (FSMIP) provides matching funds through State Departments of Agriculture and other State agencies to assist in exploring new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system. For more information, read our blog post about the current grant cycle [here](#), or visit the USDA FSMIP website [here](#). Deadline: **February 17**.
- [Specialty Crop Block Grant Program](#) (SCBG) provide grants via State Departments of Agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops. Program objectives included marketing and promotion, education, research, food production, food safety, and pest and plant health. Read our blog post on the 2010 awards [here](#). Applications can be submitted to State Departments of Agriculture. Deadline: **Application deadlines vary by state**; find your state contact [here](#).
- [Value-Added Producer Grants](#) (VAPG) provide grants to farmers and groups of farmers to establish value-adding enterprises. USDA has yet to announce the next grant round, but we expect that announcement very soon and will alert readers as soon as it is public.

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Click the link below and become a Fan of NOC on Facebook!  
Keep up to date on what we've been up to.



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**Donate Safely and Securely Through PayPal**

PLEASE DONATE TODAY! Your donations will help us to continue our work to ensure organic integrity, and to keep you informed of organic news at USDA, NOP, NOSB, as well as in Congress and the Courts.



Please note that Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI- USA), our Fiscal Sponsor, will be the name appearing on your statement.

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