



National Organic Coalition

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NOC NEWS

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Sowing Seeds to Transform Agriculture

Help Shape the 2012 Farm Bill

[Complete OFRF's Survey Today](#)

Congress is already working on the 2012 Farm Bill and both NOC and OFRF will begin their 2012 Farm Bill advocacy campaigns in the coming months. OFRF wants your ideas on the direction the 2012 Farm Bill should take.

If you are an organic or transitioning farmer, a farmer interested in transitioning to organic production, or an organic consumer, [please complete OFRF's online survey on the 2012 Farm Bill.](#) What are the biggest challenges organic and transitioning producers face? What do you think Congress ought to do to address these issues? What other farm issues should Congress be considering?

[click here to complete OFRF's online survey on the 2012 Farm Bill.](#)

OFRF will use the results to inform their 2012 Farm Bill policy positions and recommendations to Congress. If you have any questions, contact Tracy Lerman, OFRF Policy Organizer: tracy@ofrf.org.

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SAVE THE DATE(s)

FALL NOSB MEETING ANNOUNCED: Monday, October 25- Thursday 29, 2010 - Location still to be determined. [Currently scheduled to begin 8 am on Monday, and end 5 pm on Thursday] . Watch the [NOP News on the NOP Website](#)

NOC "pre-NOSB meeting" Sunday, October 24, Noon to 6 pm, at same location as NOSB meeting. Note: If NOSB start-time moves forward, we may re-schedule the "pre-NOSB Meeting" to start on Monday -- stay tuned.

FIVE SLOTS OPENING on National Organic Standards Board -- July 17 Deadline

In 2011, there will be 5 openings on the NOSB: 1 Certifier; 2 producers; 2 Consumer/Public Interest representatives. Nomination applications for these slots are due July 17, 2010.

The NOSB's mission is to make recommendations about whether a substance should be allowed or prohibited in organic production or handling, to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production, and to advise the Secretary on other aspects of the implementation of the OFPA.

Are you applying? [Contact us](#) with your information

For more info on how to apply and how to write letters of support, see our [website](#)

NOC Endorses NOSB candidates

The National Organic Coalition endorses the following candidates:
[\(please see our website for last minute additions\):](#)

Certifier (1 opening)

[Jake Lewin](#)
[Gwendolyn Wyard](#)

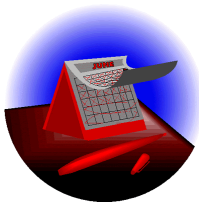
Producer (2 openings)

[Nick Maravell](#)
[Rebecca Goodman](#)

Consumer/Public Interest (2 openings)

[Julia Govis](#)

NOC Calendar of Events



Check out upcoming [Events](#) on the NOC website!

Send us your Conference dates, and we'll post them. Email: info@nationalorganiccoalition.org. Find links to information on meetings, seminars and other events.

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# VICTORY FOR FARMERS IN SUPREME COURT GMO CASE



High Court Delivers Ruling that Leaves Ban on Planting of Roundup Ready Alfalfa in Place in First-Ever Case on a Genetically-Engineered Crop

June 21, 2010 -- from [Center For Food Safety](#)

The United States Supreme Court announced its decision June 21 in *Monsanto v. Geerston Farms*, the first genetically modified crop case ever brought before the Supreme Court. Although the High Court decision reversed parts of the lower courts' rulings, the judgment holds that the ban on planting Roundup Ready Alfalfa still stands until and unless future deregulation by the Agency occurs. **It is still illegal to plant or sell GMO alfalfa.** This is a major victory for the Center for Food Safety and the Farmers and Consumers it represents! The court ruled that because of CFS' earlier Federal Court victory (which ruled that USDA violated [NEPA](#) and other environmental laws when it approved Roundup Ready alfalfa), an injunction was unnecessary since under this ruling the crop became a regulated item and illegal to plant.

CFS also won in other ways. Most importantly, the Court did not rule on several arguments presented by Monsanto - as a result the Court did not make any ruling that would be hurtful to [NEPA](#) or any other environmental laws. In addition, the Court opinion supported CFS's argument that gene flow is a sufficient environmental and economic threat - in other words, GMO contamination can still be considered harm under NEPA, both from an environmental and economic perspective. This is a huge victory for CFS and defeat against Monsanto.

[See the press release from CFS](#)

**Note** that [Monsanto had its press machine](#) going early, and most major media (NY Times, AP, Reuters, to name a few) improperly claim a win for Monsanto.

**Also:** [56 House and Senate Members -- lead by DeFazio and Leahy -- Asked USDA to prohibit deregulation of GE Alfalfa.](#) In the first [letter](#) of its kind in Congress, members of both the House and Senate state problems with the GE technology.

[Over 50 Businesses and organizations Endorse](#) Congressional Letter

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[From the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition \(NSAC\):](#)

[ERS Report: Opportunities & Constraints to Local and Alternative Production Systems](#)

This June the USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) published reports identifying the opportunities and constraints facing both local food supply chains and grass-fed livestock production systems.



In response to the exploding demand for local foods the ERS published, "[Comparing the Size, Structure and Performance of Local and Mainstream Food Supply Chains](#)." The report looks at the determinants of structure and size for local food supply chains and compares the social, environmental and economic performance of local vs. mainstream supply chains.

The report is one of the outcomes of a 2008 Farm Bill effort by Senators Feingold, Menendez, and Harkin, supported by NSAC, to foster greater research into local and regional food systems.

Using case study analysis, the report focuses on 5 products from 5 urban areas; blueberries in Portland, Oregon; leafy greens in Sacramento, California; apples in Syracuse, New York; beef in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and fluid milk in Washington D.C. Click [here](#) to read about the case studies in detail.

Key findings from the report include:

- Direct marketing comprises a very small portion of the total sales for each product but producers using local food supply chains receive higher revenues per unit and receive a larger share of the retail dollar. Farmers selling into inter-mediated supply chains also receive a larger share relative to the mainstream supply chains.
- Economic benefits from local supply chains accrue locally, but mainstream supply chains can also contribute to local economies.
- Local food systems generate greater social capital and civic engagement.
- Local food supply chains often rely on a more diversified portfolio of market outlets such as farmers markets, CSAs, buying clubs, restaurants, Internet sales, etc.
- Costs associated with mainstream processing and distribution often block small to mid- sized producers from opportunities to scale-up.

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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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