



National Organic Coalition

www.NationalOrganicCoalition.org

NOC NEWS

See News below about many organic topics:

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NOSB MEETING -- OCTOBER IN MADISON

FALL NOSB MEETING :

Monday, October 25- Thursday 29, 2010.
See a copy of and download the [Agenda and Recommendations](#)

Best Western InnTowner

2424 University Ave, Madison, WI
Phone 608-233-8778; Reservations 800-258-8321

NOC pre-NOSB meeting

Sunday, October 24, Noon to 4 pm (lunch on your own --coffee served),
at Best Western InnTowner

Please RSVP to Liana@hvc.rr.com and we'll send you an agenda.

See Invitation below for Farm Tour and dinner following this meeting. Make sure you **RSVP directly to Organic Valley**.

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### **NOSB Comments Due October 12**

Written comments on proposed NOSB recommendations are due by the close of business on Tuesday, October 12, 2010. Go to the USDA-NOSB website to see the [Meeting agenda and committee recommendations](#). Watch NOC NEWS later this week for some helpful background to write your own comments on Hops, Nanotechnology, and more.

Written comments may be submitted to Ms. Lisa Ahramjian electronically at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or see [instructions on NOSB website](#).

The comments should identify Document Number AMS-NOP-10-0068; NOP-10-08.

Comments will available for viewing on the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site.

To make an oral presentation at the NOSB meeting, please send a request to Ms. Lisa Ahramjian at [nosb@ams.usda.gov](mailto:nosb@ams.usda.gov) or (202) 720-3252.

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PLEASE RSVP BY OCTOBER 8 TO KATIE PETERMAN AT: katie.peterman@organicvalley.coop or 608-625-3588

YOU'RE INVITED TO AN
Evening at the Farm

Join us to hear the unique story of Miller family farm, walk the pastures, join the farmers and sit down to a local and organic farm feast in the hay barn.

Sunday, October 24th 4:15 - 9:00 p.m.
R & G Miller & Sons Farm, Organic Valley Dairy Farm
Columbus, WI (just north of Madison)

Itinerary
4:15 p.m. Load coach bus at Best Western Inn Towner
5:00 p.m. Arrive at Miller Farm
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Farm Tour, focusing on pasture, milking and herd health
7:00 p.m. Organic dinner and drinks
8:15 p.m. Load coach bus
9:00 p.m. Return to Best Western Inn Towner

DINNER AND FARM TOUR SPONSORED BY
ORGANIC VALLEY
FARMER-OWNED

Please RSVP by October 8, 2010 to Katie Peterman at katie.peterman@organicvalley.coop or 608-625-3588

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**NATIONAL ORGANIC COALITION TESTIFIES AT SENATE HEARING ON ORGANIC - CELEBRATING 20 YEARS AND IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE**

On September 25, the National Organic Coalition (NOC) joined Congress in celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA), the landmark law that standardized organic food and farming systems across the U.S.



Senate Agriculture Committee Hearing on Organic -- Bob Scowcroft (OFRF), Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan (USDA), Michael Sligh (RAFI/NOC), Regina Beidler (NOFA-VT farmer)

Michael Sligh, NOC co-founder and founding Chair of the National Organic Standards Board, testified on behalf of National Organic Coalition. "We are seizing the moment of commemorating two decades of certified organic food and farming in America to publicly acknowledge the many environmental and health benefits and to call for more government funding and participation in increasing the amount of organic food produced and consumed in the U.S.," said Sligh.

At the hearing, Sligh delivered copies of the **National Organic Action Plan (NOAP) -- From the Margins to the Mainstream: Advancing Organic Agriculture in the U.S.** to Senate Agriculture Committee members.

He urged immediate government attention in advancing organic agriculture, and advocated GMO labeling and increased federal funding for public seed and breed programs as critical solutions in need of Congressional support. Sligh further urged the Committee to use the 2012 Farm Bill as the vehicle for helping to establish organic as a strong and stable choice for food and agricultural production systems across the U.S.

Full text of [Michael Sligh's testimony](#).

Also testifying were:

- Hon. Kathleen Merrigan**, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture,
- Ms. Regina Beidler**, Beidler Family Farm, Organic Valley/CROPP Cooperative and Board of Directors, NOFA Vermont
- Mr. Will Harris**, White Oak Pastures, President, Georgia Organics Board of Directors
- Ms. Sarah Bird**, Senior Vice President of Marketing, Annie's Homegrown, and Vice President, Organic Trade Association Board of Directors

See their testimonies and a rebroadcast of the hearings on our [website](#).

Download [NOAP](#)

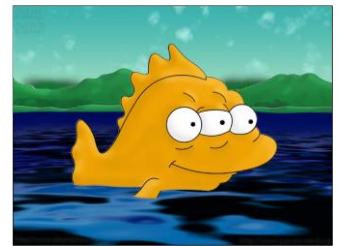
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Genetically Engineered Salmon???



White House Demonstration against GE Salmon, Sept. 16

[See more from Food & Water Watch](#)



See more about GE labeling, Sugar Beets and SuperWeeds from [Center For Food Safety](#)

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**The Cornucopia Institute**



[Scrambled Eggs: Report on Organic Egg Production](#)

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NOSB Appointments Announced

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29, 2010 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the appointment of five new members to the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB).

The appointees will serve terms beginning Jan. 24, 2011, and ending Jan. 24, 2016. They include:

- Mr. Colehour J. Bondera**, an organic producer from Honaunau, Hawaii. Mr. Bondera farms at Kanalani Ohana Farm and produces organic coffee, vegetables, avocados, fruit and cacao. He is a board member of the Kona Coffee Farmers Association and has spoken at many workshops on organic agriculture;
- Mr. Nicholas C. Maravell**, an organic producer from Potomac, Md. Mr. Maravell is owner of Nick's Organic Farm, which has been operating since 1979. He participates in on-farm research and actively engages in policy discussions concerning organic legislation;
- Mr. Robert Mac Stone**, a certifying agent representative from Georgetown, Ky. Mr. Stone is the Executive Director for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and oversees the Kentucky Organic Program. Mr. Stone is also co-manager of the Elmwood Stock Farm, a certified organic farm in Georgetown, Ky.;
- Dr. Jennifer E. Taylor**, a public interest representative from Tallahassee, Fla. Dr. Taylor is the Small Farms Program Coordinator at Florida A&M University. The program is designed to assist and equip underserved farming communities and their families toward sustainable development; and
- Dr. Reuben C. Walker**, a public interest representative from Lafayette, La. Dr. Walker is a researcher of small scale organic operations and professor and program leader at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, La. He is currently involved in transitioning the university's pork farm to an organic production system.

[View Printable Release](#)

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# What Is Organic..... and Why Should I Care?

<http://www.nationalorganiccoalition.org/whatwhyorganic.pdf>

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USDA Makes Available \$6 Million for Organic Certification Cost-Share Reimbursements



The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced on September 8, 2010, the availability of \$6.37 million in federal funds for organic certification reimbursements for fiscal year 2010.

The designated federal funds will be available to producers and handlers who obtain organic certification from Oct. 1, 2010, through Sept. 30, 2011, and can defray up to 75 percent of costs for becoming certified, not to exceed \$750 annually.

Eligible state agriculture departments should submit applications for cooperative agreements by Sept. 24, 2010, to Betsy Rakola, Grants Management Specialist, National Organic Program, USDA Stop 0268, Room 2640-S, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0264; tel. (202) 720-3252.

Additional information on the cost-share programs is available on the National Organic Program home page at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/NOPCostSharing>.

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## OG Crop Insurance



The USDA Risk Management Agency Released Reports Outlining Improvements to Crop Insurance Programs for Organic Crops.

NOC has been advocating for the elimination of the 5 percent surcharge levied on organic producers under federal crop insurance, and for reimbursements for losses based on organic prices not conventional prices.

These reports outline organic price elections for cotton, corn, soybeans, and processing tomatoes, and the elimination of the 5% surcharge for 10 crops: Figs; Florida Citrus Fruit; Florida Fruit Tree (Pilot); Macadamia Tree; Nursery; Pears; Peppers; Prunes; Texas Citrus Tree; Texas Citrus Fruit.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=2010/08/0431.xml>

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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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## Contact Information

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Liana Hoodes

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National Organic Coalition*

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