



A NEW YEAR, A NEW START

Organic Livestock Application Format Changing in 2008

Most of us resist change, and prefer the comfortable old familiar ways. As your certifier we realize that, and strive to keep things as simple as possible for our clients. However, sometimes the extra effort of change now pays off greatly in the long run. That is why you will be seeing changes to the Organic Livestock Farm System Plan application materials in 2008.

The basic idea of the new approach is that all of the information related to your organic livestock enterprise will be organized in a three ring binder and submitted as your livestock Organic Farm System Plan. The first year you complete your plan will be more tedious as you will need to collect feed labels, feed rations, health care product labels, etc. However, once the plan is created, only yearly updates will be needed to show the modifications made to the original plan (for example: the list of dairy cows on your farm). Once the plan is sufficiently completed, you will avoid requests from the office year after year to submit the same information that was submitted in previous years. It will also save the inspector time during the inspection, and most importantly, it will save you time when renewing your application in future years.

Overall, this change is another step to increase efficiency, maintain high certification standards, and keep certification costs low for our clients. In 2006, the organic processor application was changed to this new format. While there was some grumbling at first because of the extra work up front, the processors soon started to compliment the common sense approach to paperwork. We thank you for your cooperation in advance. Look for more information coming in the near future.

MORE EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

The 19th Annual Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference in La-Crosse, WI will be held February 21-23.

At this conference, you will have the opportunity to learn how to improve your organic operation, network with other organic farmers, visit with trade show representatives, and feast on good organic food. New this year is the Midwest Organic Farming Research

Symposium. Visit www.mosesorganic.org or call 715-772-3153 for more information.

Organic Agriculture: Theory & Practice classes will be offered through ISU for the 2008 Spring Semester. Classes will be held Tuesday from 6-9 p.m and offer nonmajor graduate credit. To learn more contact Dr. Kathleen Delate at 515-294-7069.

January 2, 2008

Issue 5

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ICN Application Training 1/31/08
- Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference 2/21-23
- 3/15 Early bird deadline for IDALS certification

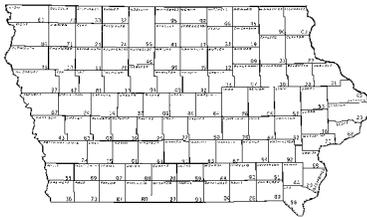
SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New organic livestock application procedures
- Farm to ISU program opportunities
- Organic Agriculture: Theory & Practice classes through ISU

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE ICN TRAINING BEING OFFERED ON JANUARY 31, 2008

Planning is crucial to a successful business. Plan now to attend the ICN (Iowa Communications Network) training session to be held in an area near you. The training session will be held on Thursday, January 31 from 6-8 p.m. and will cover the application procedure for IDALS certification. The proper completion of Transaction Certificates (TCs) will also be addressed. The opportunity to ask questions that will be benefi-

cial to your operation as well as that of other producers will also be available. The purpose of this training is to aid you in the application process so be sure to bring your application packet with you. Feel free to contact me with any specific items you feel should be included in this session. Listed below are the designated ICN sites.



We are looking for volunteers at each site to be the contact person to receive a sign in sheet and to contact should we have problems communicating with that site. Please contact Tammy Stotts at 515-281-7657 if you are willing to help.

Find a location near you

County	City	Location	Street Address	Room
Adair	Fontanelle	Nodaway Valley MS	112 1st Street	
Benton	Vinton	Vinton-Shelsburg HS	210 West 21st Street	
Buena Vista	Storm Lake	Buena Vista University 2	610 West 4th Street	7B
Clayton	Elkader	Keystone AEA	1400 2nd St NW	
Crawford	Westside	Westside Jr-Sr HS	108 Clinton St	
Franklin	Sheffield	Sheffield-Chapin HS	453 N. 5th St	
Howard	Cresco	Crestwood HS	1000 4th Ave East	45
Howard	Riceville	Riceville HS	912 Woodland Ave	10
Iowa	Williamsburg	Williamsburg Jr-Sr HS	810 Walnut	ICN room
Johnson	Iowa City	Iowa City Public Library	123 South Linn Street	D
Kossuth	Algona	Iowa Lake Community College	2111 Hwy 169 North	13
Marion	Knoxville	Knoxville High School	1811 W Madison	125
Page	Clarinda	Clarinda High School	423 East Nodaway	126
Plymouth	Akron	Akron Westfield Senior High	650 Kerr Drive	
Polk	Des Moines	Central Campus	1800 Grand Avenue	205
Pottawattamie	Council Bluffs	Council Bluffs Public Library	400 Willow Ave	
Ringgold	Diagonal	Diagonal Fr-Sr High School	402 W 2nd Street	
Story	Nevada	Nevada High School	1001 15th Street	
Washington	Kalona	Iowa Mennonite School	1421 540th St SW	123
Winneshiek	Decorah	Luther College	700 College Drive	100

CROPS & LIVESTOCK AMENDMENTS TO NOP RULES

If you are an organic livestock producer, it is important that you review the amendment to the National Organic Program Rule which became effective December 13, 2007. The amendment adds two new terms to the definition section: (1) Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act (AMDUCA) and (2) Excipients.

Several substances have also been added to the *National List of Synthetic Substances Allowed for Use in Organic Livestock Production*. Some of these substances can only be used if they are used in compliance with AMDUCA and only if a written or oral order of a licensed veterinarian has been given. Organic livestock producers should consider discussing this amendment with their veterinarian.

A second amendment also adds another biopesticide substance to the *National List of Synthetic Substances Allowed for Use in Organic Crop Production*. Please remember to submit any new product labels with your renewal application for review.

We will include a copy of the livestock amendment in your application renewal packet only if you had a certified organic livestock operation in 2007. Everyone will receive the crop amendment. If you do not receive a copy of either amendment and would like to review it, you can access the amendments online at www.ams.usda.gov/nop/TodaysNews.html or give us a call at 515-281-7656 and we will send you the requested copy/copies.

ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER

Iowa State University is actively pursuing growers to sustain their Farm to ISU Program. The Farm to ISU Program began in 2007 with ISU purchasing local foods and products to serve on campus at their residential dining centers and in their retail operations. One of the ultimate goals of this program is to focus on local small growers, farmers, and ranchers who use sustainable and organic practices. They hope to strengthen Iowa communities through stronger economies and healthier residents and to educate the ISU community (students, staff faculty) about the importance of local foods. In addition to produce, meat, dairy and eggs will also be procured. This fall they featured apples from Deal's Orchard purchasing 35,000 apples from this one grower. Signs indicating Farm to ISU local with the name of the farm and its location are posted with the products.

When making purchasing decisions, ISU managers

will consider product quality, the distance it has traveled, production practices, and price. The definition of "local" is within 200 miles of Ames, with "regional" being within 500 miles. When competing for a contract, local growers will compete with local growers. In 2008, contracts will be offered for green peppers, green cabbage, and cucumbers. In addition to the contracted produce, ISU will also be purchasing local asparagus, zucchini squash, yellow squash, pumpkins, red peppers, yellow peppers, tomatoes and yellow onions. All producers must fill out a Vendor Application form to be considered for a contract as well as a Farm and Production Practices Food Safety Questionnaire and must carry \$1 million in liability insurance. To learn more about this program, go to their website at: www.dining.iastate.edu/farm_to_isu. Questions may also be directed to Sue DeBlieck at 515-294-2892 or susandeb@iastate.edu.

IT'S YOUR NEWSLETTER, USE IT

As stated in each of the previous newsletters, we want this publication to be a tool for you. One of our readers has taken us up on that. If you are looking to buy, sell, or lease land, we may be able to help you get connected with others. Send us your email request and we will post the information here (names and addresses will not be included).

It's free; and you have an interested audience. You may contact Tammy Stotts by email tammy.stotts@idals.state.ia.us.

Wanted

Looking for organic ag land for rent for a row crop operation. Please send an email and we will forward your information to the interested party.

Wallace State Office Building
 Ag Diversification and Market Development Bureau
 502 E 9th Street
 Des Moines, Iowa 50319
www.agriculture.state.ia.us

Please direct questions/comments regarding newsletter to:
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SOME THINGS YOU CAN COUNT ON

While many things in our lives change, other things do not. With the start of the new year, you will soon be receiving your 2008 organic application packet. When completing your application, please write complete answers and sign where needed.

Some questions, such as farm location, may seem redundant. This information is requested each year, because it may be a different inspector completing your inspection from year to year. Please be sure to include input labels that are new to your operation and may not have been reviewed. The more complete information you send to us initially, the faster we can process your application.

Again this year, the early deadline is March 15 when you pay a \$75 application fee. After this date, the application fee is \$200. All crop/livestock applications must be postmarked by May 31 to be accepted. The early deadline is offered to you in order to help us diversify our workload by spreading it out over the spring. We are able to continue

to process applications over a longer period of time which reduces the time each producer has to wait. By sending your application in earlier, you help aid in our process and save yourself \$125 at the same time.

When you submit your application, we ask that you also submit the \$250 inspection fee at the same time (It can be written in one check made out to "Iowa Dept. of Agriculture").

Remember, livestock producers will be receiving a new application format. We hope it clarifies some questions as to what is needed from you. As always, we are here to help so give us a call at 515/281-7656 or email mary.nieland@idals.state.ia.us if you have questions.

We will continue to make a diligent effort to process your application as quickly as possible.

ICN Training is available to assist you with this process.



FARM BILL UPDATE

The following is a recap of the status of the current Farm Bill obtained from the Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service website. For more information you can go to their website: <http://www.mosesorganic.org/helpwanted/packethw.html>.

The U.S. Senate version of the Farm Bill was passed by a vote of 79-14. Included in this farm bill is significant funding for key organic priorities, land conservation initiatives and fairness-in-competition livestock programs;

The bill is noteworthy in its support for organics. It includes \$80 million of the Organic Farming Research and Extension Initiative, \$22 million in new

money for certification cost-share for organic farmers, \$5 million for organic data collection, and also adds to the Soil and Water Conservation Protection Loans a priority for those converting to organic farming practices, and adds conversion to organic production as an eligible loan purpose. Also included is a sense of the Senate resolution that funding for organic agriculture should align with the organic agriculture's share of the market, currently about 3%.

The House and Senate versions of the bill must now be reconciled and then approved by a conference committee before the final version of the bill goes to the President's desk for signature or veto.