Please help us encourage farmers, processors and handlers to apply. Documenting farmer interest and our funding needs will help make the case for additional funds for Wisconsin.

The council is also in favor of using the funds to help support beginning or newly transitioned organic farmers.

Laura Paine is working with NOP to determine whether and how the program can be modified to accommodate these priorities.

It is likely that the program will be announced in January 2009 for 2008 crop year reimbursements. The plan is to mail application materials to all of Wisconsin’s over 900 farmers and 245 processors and handlers who are certified organic.

Growers and others with questions on the program should contact Laura Paine at 608-224-5120.

The 2008 Farm Bill provides funding for the popular Organic Certification Cost-Share program. The cost-share program provides federal dollars to reimburse organic farmers and handlers for 75% of their certification expenses up to $750.

Wisconsin has been allocated $285,000 for the first year of the program. Ten percent will be used for administration of the program, leaving about $256,000 to be distributed to organic farmers and processors.

The council spent time during the October 15th meeting discussing how the money could be most fairly distributed. In 2005, the last year that funding was available, 27 applicants were turned down because we ran out of funds. We are working with NOP to obtain sufficient funding so that all eligible producers can receive their full allotment.

The Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council brings together public and private resources to promote Wisconsin’s national leadership position in Organic Agriculture. By advising the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection and other agricultural organizations on critical organic issues, the council supports organic production, processing, and purchasing opportunities for Wisconsin farmers, processors, and consumers.
UW Hosts Second Annual Organic Field Day

In spite of rainy weather, over 80 participants attended the second annual UW Organic Field Day at the Arlington Agricultural Research Station on September 4th.

The program included two guest speakers: Dr. Michelle Wander, a soil scientist from the University of Illinois and Dr. Dale Mutch, a cover crop expert from Michigan State University.

UW Entomologist Dr. Eileen Cullen shared results of her long-term field scale study on the interaction of soil fertility, crop plant nutrition and insect IPM and Dr. Jed Colquhoun, UW Horticulture Department summarized his research on weed management in organic vegetables.

UW researchers in cooperation with local farmers are also investigating the effectiveness of no-till field crop management using a cover crop crimping implement designed by researchers at Rodale Institute.

Dr. Erin Silva, UW CALS Organic Agriculture Coordinator & one of the field day organizers, said the field day was a success & told the Advisory Council that planning is begun for next year’s event.

Chris Malek joins the Organic Advisory Council

Chris Malek is the Organic Advisory Council’s newest farmer member. He replaces Jerri Cook, who resigned due to time constraints. Chris is a potato and vegetable grower from Stevens Point with 84 acres currently under organic production. He has a BS in Agronomy from UW-RF and a MS in Plant Pathology from UW-Madison. He previously worked as an agronomist and crop consultant to the potato industry for nearly a decade. His current activities include serving as director of the United Potato Growers Cooperative of Wisconsin and is involved in the newly formed Central Rivers Farmshed local marketing effort and a central Wisconsin farm incubator project sponsored by UW-Stevens Point. As a young farmer who has experience in both organic and conventional agriculture, Chris is passionate about helping other young farmers start farming and transition to organic agriculture. is looking forward to working with the

Treating the Organic Dairy Cow Workshop scheduled for December 4th & 5th

Nationally known organic dairy expert Dr. Hubert Karremann will be in Wisconsin on December 4 and 5 to conduct a workshop. Dr. Karremann and Organic Valley vet. Dr. Guy Jodarski will use a case-history format to walk participants through organic treatments for common dairy herd challenges. For more information contact Laura Paine at 608-224-5120 or laura.paine@wi.gov or download a brochure at: www.organic.wisc.edu.

Welcome our Newest Member: Chris Malek

Chris Malek is the Organic Advisory Council’s newest farmer member. He replaces Jerri Cook, who resigned due to time constraints. Chris is a potato and vegetable grower from Stevens Point with 84 acres currently under organic production. He has a BS in Agronomy from UW-RF and a MS in Plant Pathology from UW-Madison. He previously worked as an agronomist and crop consultant to the potato industry for nearly a decade. His current activities include serving as director of the United Potato Growers Cooperative of Wisconsin and is involved in the newly formed Central Rivers Farmshed local marketing effort and a central Wisconsin farm incubator project sponsored by UW-Stevens Point. As a young farmer who has experience in both organic and conventional agriculture, Chris is passionate about helping other young farmers start farming and transition to organic agriculture. is looking forward to working with the

Chris Malek

Organic Advisory Council to promote organic agriculture in his community.
Advisory Council Members

Organic Farmers
Tricia Bross (term ends 4/30/11)
Luna Circle Farm, Rio, WI
(608)852-3559
farmer@lunacirclefarm.com

Chris Malek (term ends 4/30/09)
Malek Family Stewardship Farm
Stevens Point, WI
(715)342-9809
malekfarm@gmail.com

Rich Lange (term ends 4/30/10)
Lange Farms, Platteville, WI
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rjl13@centurytel.net

Non-Profit Representative
Harriet Behar (term ends 4/30/11)
Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Services
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harriet@mosesorganic.org

Organic Business Representatives
Paulette Bradley (term ends 4/30/10)
WI Organic Marketing Alliance Coop.
(608)427-2201
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Jerry McGeorge (term ends 4/30/09)
Organic Valley
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jerry.mcgeorge@organicvalley.coop

Robert Wills (term ends 4/30/11)
Cedar Grove Cheese
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Consumer Representative
Margaret Bert-Mittelstadt (term ends 4/30/11)
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At-Large Members
David Engel (term ends 4/30/09)
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Christine Mason (term ends 4/30/11)
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Jim Munsch (term ends 4/30/10)
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Coordinators:
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Erin Silva, UW Agronomy Dept.
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The July 23rd Organic Advisory meeting was hosted by Standard Process, Inc. in Palmyra. Christine Mason, Farm Manager at the company, is one of three organic business representatives on the council. Prior to their business meeting, the group toured the Standard Process farm and manufacturing facility. Standard Process currently grows organic produce on 420 acres of MOSA certified organic ground. The 6.5 million pounds of produce grown on the company-owned farm are utilized for manufacturing organically produced nutritional supplements.

Did you know?
Wisconsin is home to:
♦ 918 certified organic farms
♦ 243 certified organic processors and handlers

Highlights of the Organic Advisory Council October meeting

- The Council and Interagency team provided input on the Organic Cost Share program (see page 1).
- Jed Colquhoun reported on two separate efforts to develop National Sustainable Ag certification standards and the council discussed possible implications for the certified organic label if these were to be established.
- Sub-committees reported on their activities.
- Agencies reported on their activities.
- Pat Murphy gave an update on the new Farm Bill and encouraged the council to submit comments when the rules on organic provisions are published. The government and legal affairs committee will take the lead in organizing OAC comments.
- The Council expressed interest in giving input as DATCP revises its pesticide law (ATCP 29).
- Pat and OAC Co-chair Harriet Behar reported on State Technical Committee activities. Harriet is the OAC representative on that committee. They reviewed EQIP practices that may be of value to organic farmers, including organic transition, buffers, and native pollinator habitat. Local county committees decide which practices to promote and farmers should let their local NRCS office that they're interested in these practices.
- Draft minutes of the October 15th meeting and prior OAC meetings can be found on our website: www.organic.wisc.edu.