



State of Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary

Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council Meeting

10 am to 3 pm

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

WI Department of Agriculture

Board Room, Room 106
2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison

Agenda

- 9:45 am Refreshments & Conversation
- 10:00 Welcome
Agenda review, Minutes approval
Review meeting dates for next meetings: July 15? Fall dates with Minnesota?
- 10:10 Preparation for discussion with Sect. Nilsestuen. Potential topics for discussion:
- *Anything he'd like to discuss with the group.*
 - *GMO issues: thanks for allowing OAC to submit comments to APHIS and why this is a critical issue for organic farmers.*
 - *Collaborating with neighboring states with Organic Councils.*
 - *Getting WI organics into the Chicago market.*
 - *Working Lands Initiative: Can the ag enterprise zone program be used to encourage organic & grass-based farms near urban areas.*
 - *Promoting a registry of organic farms like the DATCP lawn registry. Why this is important not just to organic farmers but also to custom applicators, utilities with rights of way through organic land.*
- 10:30 Conversation with Secretary Nilsestuen
- 11:30 Report on Ag Board presentation
Committee and Agency reports (brief)
- 12:00 pm Lunch and committee meetings
- 12:45 Working with policy makers to promote organic initiatives.
Lora Klenke, DATCP Ag Marketing director will describe the coalition that successfully campaigned to get the Buy Local program funded by the state.
- 1:30 Listening session on the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Agriculture
Jed Colquhoun, Randy Jackson, and Jack Kloppenburg
Questions they'd like to discuss with the council (see enclosed letter):
1. Does CALS need to develop a revised approach to food and agricultural sustainability and what should be the role and structure of WIAS in particular?
2. What processes might be used to develop that approach?
3. What resources need to be mobilized to develop and support this initiative?
- 2:55 Public comments
- 3:00 Adjourn

Agriculture generates \$51.5 billion for Wisconsin

