



State of Wisconsin
Governor Scott Walker

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Ben Brancel, Secretary

Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council

9:45 am to 3:00 pm

Monday March 18, 2013

WI Department of Agriculture

Board Room, Room 106

2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison

DRAFT Notes

Present Council members: Craig Dunnum, Jerry McGeorge, Harriet Behar (by phone), Steve Walker, Rebecca Goodman, Ken Seguine, Christine Mason, Altfred Krusenbaum, Rich Lange, Jennifer Casey

Interagency tem members: Laurie Makos, Laura Paine, Erin Silva, Duane Klein (later in meeting)

Public attendees: Carla Wright and Elena Byrne, Organic Processing Institute

Note: Heavy snowfall may have prevented some from attending

Meeting called to order 10:15 AM

Minutes approval: Steve Walker asked for clarification regarding the Minnesota Supreme Court decision on the 5% standard for selling organic materials potentially contaminated with pesticide by drift. Request that it be defined as 5% of the EPA tolerance level. Jennifer motioned to approve minutes, seconded by Steve. Motion carried.

Review of Council Priorities

Farm Bill

In early spring, Congress passed an extension of the Farm Bill that zeroed out a number of programs important to organic farmers and businesses. Harriet updated the Council by observing that it did not appear that Congress plans to work on a new Farm Bill in the near future, so there is little likelihood that funding for these programs will be restored anytime soon. There is some funding for conservation practices through the EQIP program and other NRCS programs. Much of the work on the Farm Bill to date has been done behind closed doors. However, several members have heard that biotech crop riders will be reinstated and no injunction on planting will be permitted in either the House or Senate version. Because the extended Farm Bill is stripped of programs of interest to organic farmers, they will be much harder to reinstate. There has been no timeline set out for completion of the new Farm Bill. There is an extension of the existing bill to September 30. Congress' goal is to have something in place by then. Since the OAC meeting in March, Laura has heard that the Senate plans to address the Farm Bill starting in May.

GMO

Jerry provided a report from Organic Valley. AC21 is the report compiled by a task force convened by Secretary Vilsack to address the potential for 'co-existence' between the GMO industry and organics. The goal was to bring both sides of GMO issue to the table. The committee was reauthorized to conduct further work on the issue. Secretary Vilsack indicated appreciation of the willingness of the organic community to dialog on the issue.

Bowman vs. Monsanto is a GMO suit being dealt with at the Supreme Court. The goal is to determine if seed patents extend beyond the first generation. A decision is expected by June. For more info:

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/16/business/supreme-court-to-hear-monsanto-seed-patent-case.html?_r=1&

Agriculture generates \$59 billion for Wisconsin

2811 Agriculture Drive • PO Box 8911 • Madison, WI 53708-8911 • 608-224-5012 • Wisconsin.gov

An equal opportunity employer

State GMO Initiatives

Prop 37, a California referendum to require GMO labeling, failed, but legislation for labeling has been introduced or is being discussed in a dozen states. Whole Foods has set 2018 for GMO labeling transparency and is aggressively moving forward. Following the defeat of Proposition 37 in California last fall, more than 20 states (according to the Non-GMO project) have since introduced their own versions of GMO labeling legislation. Here are the most prominent. Legislation has been introduced in the following states:

- Washington - I-522, THE RIGHT TO KNOW GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD ACT
- New Mexico - SB 18, ACT TO AMEND THE NEW MEXICO FOOD ACT
- Missouri - SB 155 requires any genetically modified meat or fish raised or sold in Missouri to be clearly labeled as genetically engineered as of Sept. 1, 2015
- Minnesota - H.F. 850 and S.F. 821 would require that all food products containing GM ingredients bear the words "Produced with Genetic Engineering,"
- Illinois – SB 1666, Genetically Engineered Food Labeling Act
- Iowa – SF194, Consumer 2 Labeling Information for Food Act
- Connecticut – HB 6519
- Vermont – H.122, require labels for all food products made wholly or partly from genetically modified ingredients. The bill passed the House Ag. Committee on March 1st 2013 and looks all set to move forward.

Other states with GMO labeling initiatives include Hawaii, Oregon, Missouri, Virginia, Florida, Louisiana, New York, Colorado.

Whole Foods and GMO labeling

Whole Foods Markets' announced last week, to support consumers' right to know by requiring labeling of all foods containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in its U.S. and Canadian stores by 2018.

Steve commented that three GMO items on National Organic Standards Board meeting agenda. These include: 1) GMO seed purity standards, 2) Terminology on excluded methods, 3) use of vaccines using excluded methods (genetic modification). The Council discussed the use of GMO statements on labeling, certification and the fact that organic standards already include a prohibition against use of GMOs.

Food Safety Modernization Act

The OAC has identified a subcommittee to review the Food Safety Modernization Act and develop comments on the new rules to be submitted on behalf of the Council. Committee members include Carla Wright, Jennifer Casey, Harriet Behar, Erin Silva, and Katie Peterman and Annake Witkop from Organic Valley.

Jennifer reviewed a draft of subcommittee comments. The subcommittee plans to continue working on the comments, as additional information becomes available. Christine, Alfrid and Jerry agreed to review the final comments developed by the committee. The comments will also need to be approved by Secretary Brancel's office. Laura would like a draft of the comments completed by next subcommittee call early in April, then comments from council members to be added, then submission to the Secretary. Comments must be submitted by May 16th.

To gain a better understanding of the Food Safety Modernization Act, the Council heard a presentation from Steve Ingham, administrator the Food Safety Division at DATCP. His department often ends up

providing enforcement of federal food safety laws. The presentation is available at the following websites:

http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Organic_Farming/Advisory_Council/index.aspx

<http://www.organic.wisc.edu/>

Additional Council Priorities

National Organic Standards Board Meeting

The NOSB is meeting April 9 to 11 in Portland, Oregon. Comments on their agenda items are due tomorrow. Steve will be attending representing MOSA. He says that sound and sensible certification practices are an important topic currently and most of the proposals that have been put forward seem good to MOSA. Harriet said there is a desire to create more uniform enforcement nationally and move to a sampling program for farm inspection, such as done in processing facilities.

Noon, break for lunch, 12:30 resume meeting

Recommendations from Nomination Committee

Laura reviewed the committee's nomination process. They considered nominations forms and letters of support. Altfrid's term is ending. He is looking to take an Organic Valley board position and has stepped aside. Rich and Mike are stepping down. Jennifer applied for a second term. Laura summarized the committee's selections. There were 12 nominees. Patty Bursten, Amy Barrilleaux and Richard Klossner were among the strong candidates. The committee recommended the following nominees to fill the seats:

<i>Jennifer Casey</i>	<i>Consumer</i>
<i>Steve Pincus</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
<i>Elena Byrne</i>	<i>Business</i>
<i>Inga Witscher</i>	<i>At-Large</i>

Craig moved to accept the committee recommendations, Ken seconded. Motion carried. The next step is for Secretary Brancel to review and approve the nominations. Then they go on to be voted on by the Agriculture Board at their May meeting.

Crop Insurance Update

The USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) recently published a report on organic crop pricing for crop insurance purposes. One issue is that crop yields cited in the report seemed low compared to the experience and/or opinion of some members of the Council. We asked several experts to attend the Council meeting to explain how crop insurance works in general and how it works for organic farmers. The report can be downloaded from the following website:

<http://www.rma.usda.gov/pubs/rme/2013q&a.pdf>

To learn more about this issue, the Council invited Dr. Paul Mitchell, Associate Professor of Agriculture and Applied Economics, who gave an overview of crop insurance programs and some specifics about the Organic crop insurance program. Duane Voy and Sharon Hestvik from RMA joined the call by on the phone. Paul's presentation can be found at the following web address:

http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Organic_Farming/Advisory_Council/index.aspx

<http://www.organic.wisc.edu/>

Paul Mitchell suggested that the Council could prepare a response that could be ready if the press inquired regarding organic crop insurance coverage. The National Organic Coalition, which Harriet is a part of, may have language available for WOAC to use. The Council asked Harriet to look into this.

Laurie Makos from Farm Service Agency suggested that conservation compliance be tied to insurance payments. This is something that is being promoted for the entire crop insurance program whether it is for organic or conventional farms.

Agency reports

Department of Natural Resources

Jeffrey Voltz ((608) 266-2159; Jeffrey.voltz@wisconsin.gov) was unable to attend, but sent this report on DNR programs and initiatives.

Farmer-led watershed councils-

A voluntary council approach to water quality. Farmers set the vision and decide approaches. The government's role is to support producer decisions. No enforcement is involved. This is being undertaken in four watersheds in St. Croix, Polk, Dunn and Barron counties. A coordinator has been hired through UW-River Falls to organize and assist the farmer councils and identify and facilitate obtaining financial and technical assistance. This new approach is modeled after successful programs in Iowa and Minnesota.

Precision manure irrigation-

The practice is already allowed under DNR rules, but there hasn't been a lot of research. Disease-transport research with the UW College of Agriculture and Live Sciences at the Marshfield Ag Research Station will look at how far manure vapor goes under different conditions. The department has the goal of finalizing technical standards on precision manure irrigation by June 1.

Maximum loading rates to irrigation, and ridge and furrow systems-

DNR research project with the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association and Midwest Food Processors to determine maximum loading rates to irrigation, and ridge and furrow systems, while meeting groundwater standards. Permits now allow increased loading rates with groundwater monitoring. Moroney said the aim of collaboration between industry and government is to facilitate dairy industry expansion while continuing to meeting environmental standards.

Phosphorus-

The DNR has the first phosphorus standards in the country. DNR has provided options to address phosphorus limits at lower cost, with tactics like water-quality trading, variances and "adaptive management." For instance, municipal and industrial waste treatment facilities may engage in discharge contracts with farmers who employ Best Management Practices. This water quality trading is an exchange of pollutant reduction credits. A buyer with a high pollutant control cost can buy pollutant reduction or treatment from a willing seller to comply with their regulatory requirements. Trading can produce substantial cost savings compared to traditional compliance options like facility upgrades. It's up in the air as yet what entity – DNR or Land Conservation for instance – will be the middle man between the point source and nonpoint source. Once this phosphorus trading gets rolling, a farmer who, for instance, increases the width of a stream buffer, will get paid for his efforts by a point-source that can't fully comply with the phosphorus requirement.

Guidance Transparency Policy-

DNR wants people to know what the department's expectations are. This policy applies to significant guidance that affects stakeholders. A public notice and input process must be conducted prior to implementing this type of guidance. Information will be posted on the web for a 21-day comment period. It provides stakeholders and the public with notice of potential changes and a forum to express any concerns. The department will consider comments before finalizing this. If people want information on specific issues, they can sign up and it'll be emailed to them.

UW Cooperative Extension (UWEX) – Agriculture and Natural Resource Extension (ANRE) Submitted by Kevin Shelley, UW Nutrient and Pest Management Program 608-575-4746

Education and research news and events:

Many educational programs, workshops and conferences have been held, and are planned, in conjunction with county UWEX offices, around Wisconsin. For news about educational programs offered, as well as research-based recommendations addressing current topics, see the UW Cooperative Extension website news page at: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/news/>.

Staffing and program development:

ANRE leaders are in the process of planning and program development in several areas. These include the global challenges of "doubling production" (in the next 25 years); on-farm research and producer engagement in research processes; water (quality and quantity); increasing public/private sector communications and partnerships; and, technology stewardship (making sustainable use of ANY new technology from GMO crops to irrigation systems to new sensors/machines).

In UW-Madison CALS, academic departments are putting forward proposals for new faculty positions. These proposals are due on March 18th. There are several important needs identified in the College based on recent or planned faculty/staff departures, retirements, etc. Discussions on priorities are ongoing between CALS and UWEX. UWEX leaders at the state level welcome the opportunity to hear from county faculty, as well as farmers and citizens, on the needs they see for campus-based support and applied research. It is not clear how many positions CALS will be able to fill in this next round. Interviews were recently completed for the Urban and Regional Food Systems Specialist position in Horticulture.

While a number of UWEX-ANRE county educator and state specialist positions have recently been filled, there are a remaining 12 positions open. Due to state and federal (the recent sequestration) budget reductions, UWEX is facing an approximate 2% reduction for 2013. However, past austerity measures have resulted in adequate funding reserves for filling most of the positions.

I would encourage organic producers and other industry professionals to keep in touch with Extension educators, both at the local (county) and state level, to take advantage of existing research and education programming, within a range of topics relevant to organic farm production, and to make their needs, questions and priorities known as research and education programming plans and priorities are established.

USDA Farm Service Agency Submitted by Laurie Makos Notes from Brad Pfaff, FSA State Executive Director

As the calendar turns to March, many of us are looking forward to putting away our snow removal equipment and begin working with our spring planting equipment. Without question, it has been an interesting winter -- one that has seen ample snow and a rare winter thunderstorm. The moisture, in

whatever form, has helped remove our state from the drought-like conditions that plagued much of our state last year.

Of note, the current 2008 farm bill was reauthorized by Congress and agreed to by the President for another year -- thereby, expiring on September 30, 2013.

On behalf of Wisconsin FSA, we wish you all a prosperous and safe 2013.

CRP General Sign-Up Announced

USDA will conduct a four-week general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), beginning May 20 and ending on June 14. CRP protects the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the United States.

Currently, about 27 million acres are enrolled in CRP. Producers that are accepted during this sign-up can receive cost-share assistance to plant long-term, resource-conserving covers and receive an annual rental payment for the length of the contract (10-15 years).

Nationwide, contracts on 3.3 million acres of CRP are set to expire at the end of September. Producers with expiring contracts or producers with environmentally sensitive land are encouraged to evaluate their options under CRP.

DCP and ACRE Sign-up

DCP and ACRE sign-up for the 2013 crop year is on-going. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; and the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

The 2013 DCP and ACRE program provisions are unchanged from 2012, except that all eligible participants in 2013 may choose to enroll in either DCP or ACRE for the 2013 crop year. This means that eligible producers who were enrolled in ACRE in 2012 may elect to enroll in DCP in 2013 or may re-enroll in ACRE in 2013. Likewise producers who were enrolled in DCP may opt for ACRE enrollment for 2013.

New Microloan Program

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) developed the Microloan (ML) program to better serve the unique financial operating needs of beginning, niche, small family farm operations, specialty crop producers and operators of community supported agriculture (CSA).

FSA offers applicants a Microloan designed to help farmers with credit needs of \$35,000 or less. The loan features a streamlined application process built to fit the needs of new and smaller producers.

This loan program will also be useful to eligible applicants who can apply for a maximum amount of \$35,000 to pay for initial start-up expenses such as hoop houses to extend the growing season, essential tools, irrigation and annual expenses such as seed, fertilizer, utilities, land rents, marketing, and distribution expenses. As financing needs increase, applicants can apply for a regular operating loan up to the maximum amount of \$300,000 or obtain financing from a commercial lender under FSA's Guaranteed Loan Program. Interested parties should contact their local FSA office.

MILC Program Update

Dairy producers enrolled in the Milk Income Loss Contract program (MILC) will have their contracts automatically extended through Sept. 30, 2013. There is no need to re-enroll in the program. The MILC

program was part of several FSA-related programs that were continued with the extension of the 2008 Farm Bill.

The production start month previously selected by an operation is applicable for 2013. Starting March 1, 2013, all production start month changes must be made according to normal start month selection provisions. Payments will be issued on up to 2.985 million pounds per dairy operation through August. In September, the limitation drops to 2.4 million pounds. Pounds do not count against the limitation in months a payment was not earned.

The following payment rates have been announced for the 2013 program year (amounts are per hundredweight):

- October 2012- \$0.0236798
- November 2012- \$0.0000000
- December 2012- \$0.0000000
- January 2013- \$0.1179986.

HWFRCP Ends March 25

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack reminds Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by USDA in the past that the filing period will close March 25, 2013. USDA urges potential claimants to contact the Claims Administrator for information and mail their claim packages on or before the deadline.

Claimants may register for a claims package by calling the following telephone number, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Time or by downloading the forms from the website.

Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Phone: 1-888-508-4429

Independent legal service companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. The interest rate in effect at the time the loan is approved is locked in for the life of the loan. Loans for storage facilities are available on traditional commodities as well as hay, fruits and vegetables, biomass, and honey.

Payments are available in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final fund disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. There is a \$100 non-refundable applicable fee to apply for a loan. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

For more information about any FSA program, please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

NRCS (Pat was unable to attend, but sent this report)

Program Funding and Signups in 2012 and FY 2013 to date

Program		FY12	FY13
EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program	FA (\$)	\$26 million	\$29 million*
	# Contracts	1542	
	Acres	154,700	
CSP Conservation Stewardship Program	FA (\$)	\$3,060,432	TBA
	New Contracts	477	
	Acres	162,394	
WRP Wetlands Reserve Program	FA (\$)	\$8.2 million	No new FY13 enrollment
	# Easements		
	Acres		
WHIP Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program	FA (\$)	\$23,989	
	# Contracts	2	
FRPP Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program	FA (\$)	\$665,000	
	# Easements		
	Acres		

*includes all initiatives and special funding

Farm Bill and FY2013 Budget and Programs

At this time, neither a new Farm Bill nor the 2013 budget have passed Congress. NRCS is operating under a continuing resolution, perhaps through March 2013. Pending additional legislation or national direction, we expect to proceed with conservation program application and ranking for FY13. **Sign-up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for 2012 is underway, closing on Jan. 18, 2013.**

USDA Opens Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process

Anyone who believes they were improperly denied USDA farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because they are Hispanic or female, may be eligible to apply for compensation. Claims MUST be filed by March 25, 2013 to be considered for cash payment or loan forgiveness. Potential claimants should contact the Farmer and Rancher Call Center 1-888-508-4429, or Website: www.farmerclaims.gov

Cover Crops in Drought-affected Counties

Through EQIP, NRCS made available up to \$400,000 to establish cover crops, such as rye, oats, millet, or other cover crops that protect against erosion and may provide forage for livestock. Over 20,000 acres were established in cover crops this fall as a result of the special sign-up.

Landscape Initiatives

NRCS is targeting conservation assistance to critical resources through a number of landscape scale initiatives. In Wisconsin, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative are allowing NRCS and partners to focus staff and financial assistance on water quality issues in selected watersheds. Over \$3 million in financial assistance was obligated in the lower Fox River Watershed as part of special Phosphorus Reduction Pilot Project. Wisconsin and neighboring states also proposed a national Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative (DALCI) for erosion control and wildlife habitat that was funded as a Wisconsin initiative in FY12 for \$1.2 million.

Soil Health Initiative

The Soil Health Initiative is partnership effort to focus attention on improving soil health through sound field conservation practices. An interagency team has been organized to provide training to conservation professionals and to begin laying the groundwork for a collaborative Soil Health Initiative in Wisconsin.

New Wisconsin NRCS State Conservationist

The new State Conservationist for Wisconsin will be Jimmy Bramblett. Mr. Bramblett currently serves as Chief of Staff for Regional Conservationists at National Headquarters in Washington, DC. In this role, Jimmy is responsible for providing support to the Regional Conservationists to manage all aspects of the agency's state, area, and field offices, including programs, technology, accountability, and administration. Bramblett replaces Pat Leavenworth, who retired Oct. 30 after 18 years as Wisconsin State Conservationist. Colleen Oestreich will continue to serve as Acting State Conservationist until January 21 when the new STC arrives. We are all looking forward to welcoming Jimmy to Wisconsin and are delighted with the high level experience and broad expertise that he brings with him.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

DATCP Report to the Organic Advisory Council, March 18, 2013**Agricultural Resource Management**

Duane Klein, ARM: 608-224-4520, Duane.Klein@Wisconsin.gov

Driftwatch

We hired a new marketing specialist. Ann Marie Ames will begin on March 18th. We saw considerable growth in Driftwatch registrations (125+ new registrations over two months), but the Organic conference did not yield as many registrations as we had hoped. It was reported back that there seemed to be a

lack of time in between sessions for individuals to walk among the exhibitors. However, lack of ease-of-use for the sign-up process continues to be a barrier for people attempting to enter their own information on-line.

Pesticide Regulation Clarification

Our current pesticide regulations give DATCP the authority to address off-site movement of pesticides related to drift or overspray. We recently became aware of a situation where water runoff from an upgradient field had pesticides which ended up on organic field causing the producer to lose their organic certification. We were not able to take any action in this case as our authority does not extend to overland flow or windblown sediment issues related to pesticides. This situation further stresses the importance of creating and establishing a good buffer area around organic fields.

ATCP 50

See the attached fact sheet outlining farm conservation standards that apply to all farms. The main impact to organic producers is that pastures must now meet tolerable soil loss rates, have a NM plan (phased-in) and a phosphorus index calculated. All conservation standards in the fact sheet apply to organic producers as well as conventional farms. For additional information contact Sara Walling at 608/224-4501.

ATCP 50 is being revised to implement new and modified farm runoff control standards adopted by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in 2011. Changes to ATCP 50 will update farm conservation standards, which correspond to and implement NR 151 farm performance standards and prohibitions. This document presents a summary of the proposed ATCP 50 changes to update the soil erosion standard, modifies nutrient management standard to implement the phosphorous index, and adds provisions to address the tillage setback and process wastewater.

Soil Erosion

- Incorporates version of NR 151.02 in effect when ATCP 50 is revised
- Makes the following limited changes:
 - Expanding soil erosion to require that pastures meet “T”
 - Referencing latest prediction models: RUSLE 2 and Wind Erosion Prediction System

Phosphorus Index (PI) and Nutrient Management (NM)

- Incorporates version of NR 151.04 in effect when ATCP 50 is revised, including DNR requirements for agricultural land where the PI applies, the methods for calculating PI, and acceptable PI runoff levels (Average of 6 or less over accounting period, 12 or less in any one year of the rotation)
- Makes the following limited changes to the Nutrient Management standard:
 - Revises ATCP 50.04 to include pasture requirements in NR 151
 - Covers mechanical **and other applications** of nutrients
 - Phase-in for NR 151 requirements for pastures
 - Three years from effective date of rule for pastures within 1,000 feet of lakes or 300 feet of rivers and streams

- All pastures by 2020
- Clarifies that NM plans are only updated when cropping systems change
- Retains 2005 NRCS 590 Standard for NM and current NM checklist, which are now available from DATCP website and not attached to the rule as appendices.

Tillage Setback

- Incorporates version of NR 151.03 in effect when ATCP 50 is revised
 - Including DNR requirements for a setback of 5 to 20 feet from surface water, no tillage can occur in that zone and adequate vegetation must be maintained to ensure bank integrity

Tillage Setback

- Makes the following limited changes:
 - Defines how method for establishing setback:
 - Start with 5 ft., increase setback by smallest increment necessary,
 - Use best professional judgment to increase setbacks based on bank and landscape characteristics and consultation with consult with NRCS or DATCP engineers/tech
 - Protects bank integrity by using BMPs (e.g. critical area stabilization)
 - CREP program can achieve compliance
 - No cost-sharing required to implement this practice

Process Wastewater

- Incorporates version of NR 151.055 in effect when ATCP 50 is revised, including DNR requirements for activities covered (feed leachate & milk house waste) and the definition of “significant” discharge based on volume, frequency, receiving waters, slope and other factors
- Makes the following limited changes:
 - Adds feed storage runoff control as cost-shareable practice incorporating NRCS standard 629
 - Recognize less costly approaches to manage feed storage discharges

Agricultural Development Division

Laura Paine, DAD: 608-224-5120/Laura.paine@wi.gov

- Update on our two remaining grant programs (both provide small grants to individual farmers):
 - Calls for proposals have just ended for the Dairy 30X20 and there have been between 40 and 50 applications submitted.
 - The Producers First program call for proposals is open until March 31, 2013. Information on the program is available at:
http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/Producers_First/
 - We are working on a program whereby grazing farmers can be hired through these programs to serve as mentors for beginners and be compensated for their time. This could potentially be broadened out to organic farmers.

- We have a new staff person hired to work with underserved and minority farmers. Jack Chang and I will travel to the Eau Claire area on March 27th to meet with a Hmong farm family interested in certifying for organic production.
- I have been serving on the board of directors for MOSA for several years now, and was recently elected board president for 2013.

Old Business

Future Meeting Dates

The meeting day will be switched to Tuesday in the future. Laura will send out a Doodle poll for dates of the July and October meetings. The July meeting will be a pasture walk at Altfrid's farm and a visit to the Michael Fields Institute in East Troy.

Update on Altfrid's Press Release

Altfrid updated the group on his effort to solicit expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres to convert to organic production of hay and other crops. He sent out more than 90 letters to landowners in his county (Walworth) who had expiring CRP contracts and has gotten a few responses. He had written a press release that the Council wanted to send out highlighting the fact that CRP fields can often be certified immediately for organic production. DATCP's public information department declined to approve the press release to be sent out as a DATCP release, because of a concern that it would be interpreted as DATCP promoting one type of agriculture over another. As an alternative, Harriet agreed that MOSES would send out the release. Laura suggested and then volunteered that the release could be rewritten as a profile of two OAC members' (Rich and Altfrid) efforts to gain access to CRP ground for organic production.

Meeting adjourned 2:35 PM