



## LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

In today's world we are all busy trying to just keep up with life's daily demands. To make tomorrow easier, we should consider investing our time to serve on local boards and councils that help bring recognition to those things we work so hard to achieve.

Through legislative appropriations this summer, a new program has been added to our department. The Farm to School Program is administered by Steve Pedersen and will strive to increase the purchases of Iowa grown fruits and vegetables along with Iowa processed foods. Additionally, the program hopes to

bring healthier eating habits to school age children, provide another viable market for Iowa producers and processors and help establish partnerships with public agencies and nonprofit organizations. The program will have a Farm to School Council to be appointed by the Governor. The council is comprised of seven members, one of which is an organic meat producer. If you are interested in serving on this council, or want to learn more about the program, contact Steve Pedersen at 515-281-7608 or by email [steve.pedersen@idals.state.ia.us](mailto:steve.pedersen@idals.state.ia.us).

## PLEASE WELCOME EMILY WADLE ....



On September 21, Emily Wadle became the newest

member of the Agricultural Diversification and Market Development Bureau. Emily grew up in West Des Moines and has a teaching degree from the University of Dallas.

She has been assisting us with our work in the organic department for the last several months and we feel she will be a great asset to our team. You may reach Emily by email at [emily.wadle@idals.state.ia.us](mailto:emily.wadle@idals.state.ia.us) or by calling our main number 515-281-7656.

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Issue 4

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ICN Application Training 1/31/08
- 7th Annual Iowa Organic Conference 11/19

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Proper crop rotations
- Purchasing seed for '08
- Completion of farm inspections

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CROP ROTATIONS

With the elevated price of organic corn, many producers are wondering if they can plant two years of successive corn. Planting two years of a crop back-to-back can have a harmful impact on your farming system for regulatory and agronomic reasons. The practice of planting the same crop in continuation is not allowed under organic regulations. Corn depletes your field of high levels of nitrogen. In order to compensate for this, some growers would like to apply large quantities of manure. This is not recommended because applying too much manure may create a nutrient imbalance, such as an excess of phosphorous.

The USDA National Organic Program (NOP) Rule identifies crop rotation as the practice of alternating the annual crops grown on a specific field in a planned pattern or sequence in successive crop years so that crops of the same species or family are not grown repeatedly without interruption on the same field. Section §205.205 Crop rotation practice standard of the NOP Rule provides this information. The producer must implement a crop rotation including but not limited to sod, cover crops, green manure crops, and

catch crops that provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation: (a) Maintain or improve soil organic matter content; (b) Provide for pest management in annual and perennial crops, (c) Manage deficient or excel plant nutrients, and (d) Provide erosion control.

By following proper crop rotation practices, not only are you complying with regulations but you will have a more productive farming system by helping to control pests such as root worms and weed problems that are prevalent to a particular crop.



*Picture of corn taken from a non-organic corn on corn field. Corn sample is reflective of the corn found throughout the entire field.*

## 7TH ANNUAL IOWA ORGANIC CONFERENCE

Make plans to attend the 7th Annual Iowa Organic Conference to be held on Monday, November 19th. The conference is sponsored by Iowa State University and will be held at the Scheman Building in Ames.

A trade show of 30 vendors featuring organic products and services will be held in conjunction with the conference. Among the topics presented at the conference will be a session on organic livestock production, taught by farmers successfully implementing the practices they will be instructing

on. You will have an opportunity to attend seminars on organic grains, vegetables, herbs, fruits and soil health as well as an array of marketing tips targeting beginning growers to those who want to enhance their current marketing skills. A four-course all-organic lunch from Midwest growers will also be included in the conference fee.

To learn more about the conference, or for registration information go to: <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/organicag>.



## APPLICATION PROCESS MADE EASIER

Mark your calendars now to attend an ICN training session on January 31, 2008. IDALS staff will be going through the application step by step to provide clarification and answers to questions you may have.

If you are currently certified by IDALS, application renewal information will be automatically sent to you in January. Letters with times and locations will be in-

cluded in your application packet. Please open your package as soon as it arrives so you can select the location nearest you. If you know of others that may be considering certification, or if you are considering certification, please feel free to contact the office for additional training information. After the first of the year you can obtain training information by going to our website: [www.agriculture.state.ia.us](http://www.agriculture.state.ia.us)

## SEED SELECTION FOR 2008

As you make your seed selection for 2008, you must make every effort to use organic seed. If organic seed is not available, you are required to thoroughly document your efforts to locate organic seed. A notification of non-compliance can be issued to producers who do not comply with this requirement. Please refer to NOP Federal Organic Regulations §205.205 Seeds and planting stock practice standard which states:

- (a) The producer must use organically grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock: Except, That,
- (1) Nonorganically produced, untreated seeds and planting stock may be used to produce an organic crop when an equivalent organically produced variety is not commercially available: Except, That, organically produced seed must be used for the production of edible sprouts;
  - (2) Nonorganically produced seeds and planting stock that have been treated with a substance included on the National List of synthetic sub-

stances allowed for use in organic crop production may be used to produce an organic crop when an equivalent organically produced or untreated variety is not commercially available;

- (3) Nonorganically produced annual seedlings may be used to produce an organic crop when a temporary variance has been granted in accordance with §205.290 (a)(2);
- (4) Nonorganically produced planting stock to be used to produce a perennial crop may be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced only after the planting stock has been maintained under a system of organic management for a period of no less than 1 year; and
- (5) Seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock treated with prohibited substances may be used to produce an organic crop when the application of the materials is a requirement of Federal or State phytosanitary regulations.

For additional questions or clarification please contact our office at (515)281-7656.

## COMPLETION OF '07 FARM INSPECTIONS

Fall has arrived and the farm inspections for the current year are nearing an end. Approximately 30 inspections remain. If your farm review has not yet been completed and you have not been

contacted by an inspector to schedule an inspection date, please contact this office.

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## USE OF CURRENT CERTIFICATE

Summer is always an extremely busy time in this bureau. Geraldine is working feverishly to process applications and prepare current certificates. If your inspection has been completed and all necessary forms have been submitted, you will be receiving your certificate as soon as it can be processed. You may continue

to utilize your current certificate until you receive your new one.

If you have not submitted all necessary documentation, please do so immediately to avoid further delays.

Thank you for your continued patience.

## SHOWCASE YOUR PRODUCT IN CHICAGO

Marketing is the key to any successful business. An opportunity to team up with fellow organic processors from Iowa and participate in the All Things Organic Conference and Trade Show may now be feasible for processors that act quickly. At the All Things Organic Trade Show you'll find more organic companies and products than at any other industry trade event in North America—all products on display must be certified organic, made with certified organic ingredients, or approved for use in organic production. The Iowa Organic Association has leased a 1000 sq. ft. pavil-

ion and is offering a 5' X 10' space for \$2500, which is a huge savings from an individual booth at this event.

The ATO Conference and Trade Show will be held in Chicago April 26-29, 2008. More information may be obtained by going to the ATO website at:  
[www.organicexpo.com](http://www.organicexpo.com).

If you are interested in obtaining space in the pavilion to showcase Iowa organic products, please contact Jerry Rosman by calling 712-235-3301 or by email at:  
[info@iowaorganic.org](mailto:info@iowaorganic.org)

## ORGANIC INSPECTOR TRAINING IS COMING TO IOWA

The Independent Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA) is a non-profit association of trained farm and processing inspectors dedicated to the verification of organic production processes. IOIA coordinates inspector trainings for beginning and experienced inspectors, assists in industry networking, and publishes inspector manuals and resource materials. If you are aspiring to become an organic inspector or just



want to learn more about the industry, you will have the opportunity to attend a training session in Iowa in 2008. The training sessions will be held beginning April 14 thru April 24 at the Hampton Inn in Iowa City.

You may learn more about IOIA by going to their website at [www.ioia.net](http://www.ioia.net).

Watch for more information in the January newsletter.