



AND THE WINNER IS.....

Congratulations go out to Miss Hannah Gesing of the Little Switzerland FFA Chapter at Waukon. Hannah was the recipient of the 2007 Organic Agriculture Award. This is the first year this award has been offered.

In the Fall of 2004, Gesing started an organic dairy herd as a partnership with her father. Her share in the herd has increased from six milking shorthorns to fifteen. Gesing has learned skills specific to organic dairy production such as understanding organic regulations and restricting the use of certain inputs. Gesing has also excelled in

competencies needed in all dairy production such as artificial insemination, genetic improvement, record keeping, operating equipment and providing excellent nutrition. Hannah is the daughter of Merlin Gesing, a producer certified by IDALS since 2001.

The Organic Agricultural Award is sponsored by Dr. Joseph Ward, through the Iowa FFA Foundation. Encourage the FFA members you know that have an organic farming project to apply for this award; and those members that do not have a project to start one.

July 2, 2007

Issue 3

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Nominate your Organic Farmer of the Year now!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Certification process from the certifier's point of view
- Safe Product Delivery
- Attend a Field Day



CALLING ALL ORGANIC FARMERS

The Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) is seeking nominations for their 2008 "Organic Farmer of the Year" award. Don't miss this opportunity to properly acknowledge the outstanding efforts of an organic farmer! As in years past, the award will be pre-

sented at the Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference to be held next February 21-23, 2008 in La Crosse, WI. Please visit their website at www.mosesorganic.org/ to learn more and to download a nomination form. You may also reach them by phone at 715-772-3153.

AND NOW, THE REST OF THE STORY

We realize that the application process is a very time consuming and tedious task; but you may not know what is involved in the processing of your application once it is received in our office. The following timeline is a generalization of some of the tasks that must be performed prior to issuing the organic certificate.

- Prepare and mail approximately 300 application packets, including livestock documentation and necessary documents for processors.
- Upon receiving the completed packet, log appropriate information into the computer and review each application for completeness, accuracy, and submittal of all forms. Verify consistency of information throughout the entire application packet. This is one of the most time consuming elements as delays are often incurred when trying to contact producers to receive necessary information. You can aid in this process by making sure we have accurate contact information and by responding to us as quickly as possible.
- Make sure appropriate fees have been submitted.
- Complete the pre-inspection review of each of the 300 applications received.
- Prepare and send follow-up letters to those applicants who still need to submit additional information. Follow up to make sure each applicant is on track.
- Send letters to producers/processors who have been given preliminary approval of the application and are ready for inspection.
- Files are forwarded to the inspector who sets up an inspection date and time. If inspections require rescheduling, delays are imminent as they are done on a regional basis as much as possible.
- After the inspection is conducted and the report is prepared and sent into the office, follow up is needed on any additional information required by the inspector.
- When all inspection requirements have been met, the file is forwarded to the appropriate staff for a post-inspection review.
- During this phase, all product labels and tags are carefully reviewed and checked against our current database. For those products that are not listed in our database, a detailed review of each product ingredient and the manner in which it is used will be required. This is a complete review of the entire file to insure all procedures and products used meet NOP requirements as well as those established by IDALS.
- The final review and certification decision is made by the program director.
- At this time the certificate and final documents are prepared and mailed.

We hope that this brief look at the process will help you understand the time and detail involved in the certification procedures. We ask for your continued patience and understanding as we do our best to serve you in the most accurate and timely manner possible.

CROP PRODUCERS TAKE INVENTORY

If you're a crop producer and you intend to sell early season crops such as hay or small grains, now would be a good time to check on your supply of Application for Transaction Certificate (ATC) forms and Organic Product Clean Transportation Affidavit forms. You may contact us by telephone, email or regular mail to request more

forms. If you leave a voice mail message requesting additional forms, please indicate how many copies of each form you would like us to send and be sure to include your name. To save time and postage, you may ask our inspector, Matt Miller, for these forms while he is at your farm.

THE PROCESSOR REVISION § 205.606

Information obtained from the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service website reports that the U.S. Department of Agriculture will publish an interim final rule that will amend USDA's National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List) to include 38 minor ingredients recommended by the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) during meetings in March and May of this year. The interim final rule, which is effective as of June 21, 2007, will also provide a 60-day period for additional comment on the amendments.

The 38 minor ingredients contained in the interim final rule are non-organic, agricultural ingredients that may be considered for use in an "organic" processed product. A minor ingredient cannot comprise more than 5 percent of an "organic" product. Before an organic handling operation can consider using a non-organic, agricultural minor ingredient, the organic form of the ingredient must be first sourced and confirmed unavailable.

The NOSB recommendations to amend the National List with these 38 non-organic, agricultural minor ingredients are consistent with the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations, and the district court's final judgment and order on Harvey v. Johanns, dated June 9, 2005. The district court's final judgment and order clarified that § 205.606 shall be interpreted to permit the use of a non-organically produced agricultural product only when the product is listed in § 205.606, and when an accredited certifying agent determines the organic form of the agricultural product is not commercially available.

To obtain more information on this topic, you may view the news release in its entirety by going to : <http://www.ams.usda.gov/news/133-07.htm>.

A NEW LOOK FOR IDALS ORGANIC PROGRAM



We are parading a new seal. The new seal is available to processors and those producers who utilize the seal on their fin-

ished label. To request that a usable jpeg or pdf file be sent to you, please send an email to Geraldine at geraldine.fridlington@idals.state.ia.us or you may reach her by calling 515-242-6343.

PLAN TO ATTEND A FIELD DAY

What better way to share information and learn what other growers around the state are doing than to attend a field day. Many field days also give farmers and the public a chance to see research projects in progress and talk with the researchers involved in the experiments. They may also provide the opportunity to view the latest in modern agriculture.

Whether you are attending a field day hosted by Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) or a field day at a demonstration farm sponsored by Iowa State University, the chance to network with other growers is a great resource which is available to you at many locations throughout the state.

On August 22, you can attend one of the many field days being offered this year through Iowa

State University at the Neely-Kinyon Research and Demonstration Farm. The farm is located 2 miles south of Greenfield on Highway 25 and will cover the topics of sustainable crop and grazing. To learn more about this field day you can go to Iowa State University's College of Agriculture's 2007 Field Day website at : <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/farms/fielddays.php>.

Practical Farmers of Iowa are also hosting a multitude of field days around the state throughout the summer. You can view their schedule of 2007 Field Day Guide by going to their website at : <http://www.practicalfarmers.org>.

A minimal fee may be assessed at some sites.

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PRODUCT USE

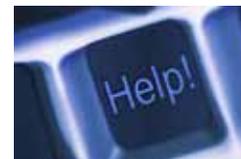
Many input products have more than one possible use. If a product you are inquiring about is determined to be prohibited, it is possible that the manner in which it will be used may make a difference in the determination. If you receive notification that a product is prohibited and you feel it is incorrect, please do not hesitate to call and discuss it with

us. In the future, when submitting a label for a product that serves multiple purposes, it would be beneficial if you would attach a note indicating how the product will be used in your operation. You may contact Geraldine Fridlington at 515-242-6343 with your questions pertaining to allowed and prohibited products.

WE WANT TO HELP

Plans are being made to assist you with the application procedure next year by offering a voluntary Iowa Communications Network (ICN) training session. Sites will be set up across the state to accommodate as many applicants as possible. Staff will be conducting the training by going through the application from start to finish. The ICN system is interactive and will allow for questions and answers. We

hope to have additional information including times and dates in our upcoming newsletter. Please feel free to contact me at 515-281-7657 or by email at tammy.stotts@idals.state.ia.us if you have questions regarding this.



SAFE PRODUCT DELIVERY

As crops are harvested and grain is sold, focus needs to be put on safely transporting your product. Prior to shipping a product, the Organic Product Clean Transportation Affidavit must be completed. This should be completed by the seller and should accompany the load to the delivery point. The seller must maintain a copy for review during his/her next organic inspection.

In addition, it is important to verify that the integrity of your product is maintained during the transportation. The vehicle used should be appropriate to the transported product. All equipment, vehicles and containers should be inspected prior to being placed on the vehicle to make sure it is clean and that the truck is free of any non-organic residues or any other matter that may contaminate the product.