



## News Briefs

### • **Senate Ag Committee Passes Farm Bill with Strong Conservation Title**

The Senate Agriculture Committee last month passed a ten-year, \$170 billion farm bill which includes an estimated \$42.7 billion for its conservation title. Within the conservation title, a full-scale, ten-year Conservation Security Act was approved; that program would establish new incentives for farmers and ranchers to adopt and maintain practices that conserve land, water, and wildlife resources. Other strong elements in the conservation title, according to the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, include: relinking sodbuster/conservation compliance to crop insurance subsidies; increased funding for Wetlands Reserve Program and Farmland Protection Program; and special access and incentives to conservation programs for beginning farmers. Although large factory hog farms remain eligible for federal funds under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, "several protections make the Senate bill slightly more reasonable than the House bill," according to Ferd Hoefner of the Coalition. The full Senate may vote on the bill this month.

### • **Final Appropriations for Fiscal 2002 Increase Several Conservation Programs**

The final USDA appropriations approved for Fiscal 2002 increased funding for several conservation programs, but deleted funding for several others. However, the mandatory conservation programs whose funding was deleted were funded in the farm bills passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate Agriculture Committees which would supercede the 2002 appropriations. These appropriations were approved for fiscal 2002: **SARE:** \$12.5 million for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program, an increase of \$3.2 million from FY 2001; **SAPDP:** \$4.75 million for the SARE (Chapter 3) Professional Development Program, an increase of \$950,000; **ATTRA:** \$2.5 million for Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas, an increase of \$500,000; **Organic research:** \$1.5 million for organic research, an increase of \$100,000; **EQIP:** \$187 million for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, a decrease of \$13 million; Wetlands Reserve Program, Fund for Rural America, Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems, and Farmland Protection Program received no funding.

### • **Sustainable Farms Produce Profits and Environmental Benefits, Study Finds**

Profits and environmental performance on sustainable farms are equal to or better than that of conventional farms, according to a four-year study by the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture. The study evaluated soil loss, rainfall, field runoff, production levels, and financial data for three farms: an organic dairy farm, a dairy grazing farm, and a beef cow-calf rotational grazing farm. Among the study's findings: the net income of both dairy farms was higher than the average for similar dairy farms in the region. For the full 44-page report, "Sustainable Farming Systems: Demonstrating Environmental and Economic Performance," contact MISA, (612) 625-8235; e-mail [misamail@umn.edu](mailto:misamail@umn.edu).

### • **Missouri Factory Farms Must Clean Up, Pay Fines**

Under a court-ordered settlement, 22 concentrated animal feeding operations in Missouri owned by Premium Standard Farms and Continental Grain Company must spend as much as \$50 million to develop and install cleaner wastewater treatment technologies, according to Environmental News Network (November 21, 2001). The two companies must also reduce the farms' ammonia emissions and waste nitrogen content, and pay a \$350,000 civil penalty as part of the agreement which settles all environmental claims made against them by the EPA, Justice Department, and Citizens Legal Environmental Action Network. Those organizations had charged that the farms, which house 1.25 million hogs in five Missouri counties, had violated numerous requirements of the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act.

## **News Briefs** (continued from page 1)

### • **Most Government Farm Subsidies Go to 10 Percent of Biggest Producers, Database Shows**

Two-thirds of government farm subsidy payments were paid to ten percent of all eligible recipients in fiscal 2000, according to an analysis of subsidy records by the Environmental Working Group released last month. That analysis found that two-thirds of the nation's farmers received no subsidies, and that the average annual subsidy check was approximately \$1,000 for 80 percent of those eligible for the funds. The bulk of all commodity program money went to approximately eight Great Plains and Southern states. A story in *Wallaces Farmer* (November 26, 2001) wrote that "farm subsidy recipients get checks in virtually every zip code in the country—including affluent neighborhoods in America's biggest cities. 'Farmer' recipients include Fortune 500 companies, members of Congress, and celebrities." According to the Environmental Working Group, "Big government checks have enabled big producers to buy neighbors' farms or out-compete them in the farmland rental markets. This has helped fuel the increased concentration in agriculture." More information on the analysis and search methods is available on the Internet at <http://www.ewg.org>.

### • **Trader Joe's Products Will Not Include Genetically Engineered Ingredients Within a Year**

All Trader Joe's private-label products will be produced without genetically engineered ingredients within one year, the specialty grocery chain announced last month. "The majority of our customers would prefer to have products made without genetically engineered ingredients," the company said. "Our goal for existing private-label products is to have all such products reformulated, if necessary, and certified within one year." Trader Joe's has 159 stores in 15 states; 85 percent of the products at Trader Joe's stores carry the company's private label. Because of drift contamination, according to the company, "it is not possible for any supplier or retailer to realistically offer any guarantee that their products are GMO-free." There are currently no standards for the labeling of genetically engineered foods; the company has advocated a national standard on such labeling so customers "can make informed choices when purchasing food for themselves and their families." Private-label products at the Whole Foods grocery chain are already GMO-free.

### • **NOSB Seeks Public Comment on Draft Livestock Feed Ingredient Recommendations**

The National Organic Standards Board is seeking public comment by January 24, 2002, on recommendations regarding livestock feed ingredients. The recommendations cover topics including synthetic vitamins and minerals, feed additives, supplements, formulated feed, and feed ingredients; they are available on the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/>. Comments may be submitted by mail to NOSB, c/o Katherine Benham, South Building Room 2510, 1400 and Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250; e-mail [NOSB.Livestock@usda.gov](mailto:NOSB.Livestock@usda.gov); or fax (202) 205-7808.

### • **U.S. and Mexico Plan Border Agricultural Research**

The Agricultural Research Service of the USDA and Mexico's National Institute of Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Research agreed to plan border agricultural research at a two-day summit last month in Texas, according to Environmental News Network (November 16, 2001). The meeting covered soil and water management, plant health, livestock diseases, and remote sensing techniques. Scientists from both agencies led panel discussions on regional problems in the United States and Mexico, traded information, and suggested ways to collaborate on future research, according to the story. Higher yielding plants are being developed at ARS laboratories that could help producers in Mexico grow crops with high economic values on small farms; these plants, such as lesquerella and guayule, can break the cycle of pests when used in rotation with other crops, an ARS scientist said.

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# Wallace Center/Winrock News

## • Patrick Madden, Sustainable Agriculture Pioneer, Dies of Cancer

Patrick Madden, a pioneer of sustainable agriculture in universities, the USDA, and worldwide, died last month at his home in California after battling brain cancer since February. Madden was the first Director of the USDA's SARE program, served as the President of the World Sustainable Agriculture Association, and was the author of numerous books and publications about sustainable agriculture. He was also a member of the Editorial Board of the *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture*, the Wallace Center's quarterly, peer-reviewed journal of research on sustainable and alternative agriculture. His family requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made in his name to an organization that supports his life's work.

## Positions

**The Food Alliance** seeks applicants to expand its farm and ranch certification program in the Pacific Northwest; full job description is on the Internet at <http://www.thefoodalliance.org>.

## Resources

**"Finding Food in Farm Country,"** by the Hiawatha Pantry Project in Minnesota, is available on the Internet at <http://www.igc.org/crossroads/ff.pdf>.

**"Organic Food and Farming: Myth and Reality,"** by the Soil Association of the United Kingdom, is available on the Internet at <http://www.soilassociation.org.uk/Sa/SAWeb.nsf/FLDocuments/Hot+News?OpenDocument>.

**"Profitable Pork: Alternative Strategies for Hog Producers"** is available from the Sustainable Agriculture Network Coordinator, (301) 504-6422; e-mail [aadeyemi@nal.usda.gov](mailto:aadeyemi@nal.usda.gov); on the Internet at <http://www.sare.org/bulletin/hogs/>.

**"Publicly Funded Agricultural Research and the Changing Structure of U.S. Agriculture"** is available on the Internet from the National Academy of Sciences at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/10211.html>.

**"The Organic Source: NYS Organic Food Guide"** is available for \$2 from Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York, P.O. Box 880, Cobleskill, NY 12043; (518) 734-5495.

**"Organic Matters" publications—**"Considerations in Organic Hog Production," "Pursuing Conservation Tillage Systems for Organic Crop Production," and "Considerations in Organic Apple Production" are available from Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas, 1-800-346-9140, or on the Internet at <http://www.attra.org>.

**"Sustainable Agriculture Resource and Information Directory"** is available from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Energy and Sustainable Agriculture Program, 90 West Plato Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55107; (651) 296-7673; on the Internet, <http://www.mda.state.mn.us>.

**"Evaluation of U.S. Regulatory Process for Crops Developed Through Biotechnology"** is available from the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, on the Internet at <http://www.cast-science.org>.

**"Pastured Poultry Questions and Answers"** and **"Starting Your Own Dairy Farm,"** research briefs from the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, University of Wisconsin-Madison, are available from Kathy Martin-Taylor, (608) 262-5200; e-mail [kmartint@facstaff.wisc.edu](mailto:kmartint@facstaff.wisc.edu).

**"Future Directions for Joint Agricultural-Environmental Policies: Implications of the United Kingdom Experience for Europe and the United States,"** a paper from South Dakota State University and University of Essex Centre for Environment and Society, is available on the Internet at [http://agecon.lib.umn.edu/cgi-bin/pdf\\_view.pl?paperid=3794](http://agecon.lib.umn.edu/cgi-bin/pdf_view.pl?paperid=3794).

**"Profiles of Three Working Farms and the Conservation Security Act: How Stewardship Incentives Would Enhance Working Agricultural Lands"** is available from The Minnesota Project, RR 1 Box 81B, Canton, MN 55922; (507) 743-8300; on the Internet, <http://www.mnproject.org>.

**Organic farms database** listing hundreds of farms can be searched by country, region, or key word; it is available on the Internet at <http://www.organic-research.com/farms/index.asp>; to add a new farm, go to [www.organic-research.com/farms/addfarm.asp](http://www.organic-research.com/farms/addfarm.asp); to correct a listing or add new information to an existing entry, e-mail [organicresearch@cabi.org](mailto:organicresearch@cabi.org).

# Upcoming Events

**January 9-12, 2002**, 10th Annual National No-Tillage Conference will be held in St. Louis, MO; contact Frank Lessiter, No-Till Farmer, 1-800-645-8455 or (262) 782-4480; e-mail [merilyn@lesspub.com](mailto:merilyn@lesspub.com).

**January 11-13, 2002**, "Sustainable Greenhouse Design and Production: Season Extension and Winter Growing for Vegetable and Flower Farmers"; **February 1, 2002**, "Increase Your Profit: Financial Management for Established Farmers"; and **February 2-3, 2002**, "Creating Healthy Soils and Overcoming Weeds: Biological Principles of Organic Agriculture; will be held in Saratoga County, NY; for workshop information, contact Regional Farm and Food Project, (518) 427-6537; e-mail [farmfood@capital.net](mailto:farmfood@capital.net).

**January 18, 2002**, is the deadline for abstracts for "Animal Residuals—2002: Agricultural Animal Manure—Management, Policy and Technology," to be held May 6-8, 2002, in Washington, DC; details are available on the Internet at <http://www.awma.org/events/>.

**January 18-19, 2002**, "Farming for Profit and Stewardship" will be held in Hagerstown, MD; contact Future Harvest-CASA, (410) 604-2681; e-mail [rsullivan@friend.ly.net](mailto:rsullivan@friend.ly.net); on the Internet, <http://www.futureharvestcasa.org>.

**January 23-26, 2002**, Annual Meeting of the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants will be held in Albuquerque, NM; contact NAICC, 349 East Nolley Dr., Collierville, TN 38017; (901) 861-0511; on the Internet, <http://www.naicc.org>.

**January 23-26, 2002**, 22nd Annual Ecological Farming Conference will be held in Pacific Grove, CA; contact Ecological Farming Association, 406 Main St., #313, Watsonville, CA 95076; (831) 763-2111; on the Internet, <http://www.eco-farm.org>.

**January 24-25, 2002**, "Looking at Genetic Engineering Through the Lens of Sustainability," the 7th annual Southern Region SARE Professional Development Program Workshop, will be held in Chattanooga, TN; contact Rosanne Minarovic, Southern Region SARE PDP, North Carolina State University, (919) 515-3252; e-mail [rminarov@unity.ncsu.edu](mailto:rminarov@unity.ncsu.edu).

**January 25-27, 2002**, 11th Annual Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group Conference will be held in Chattanooga, TN; contact Ryan Cohen, (404) 819-2122; e-mail [ryancohen@msn.com](mailto:ryancohen@msn.com); on the Internet, <http://www.attra.org/ssawg/>.

**February 1-2, 2002**, Virginia Biological Farming Conference and Trade Show will be held in Front Royal, VA; contact the Conference, c/o Linda Davis, (540) 463-6363; e-mail [biofarmingconf@hotmail.com](mailto:biofarmingconf@hotmail.com).

**February 2, 2002**, "Grass Farming: Connecting Land and Communities," the Sixth Annual Vermont Grazing Conference, will be held in Randolph, VT; contact Gwyneth Harris, Vermont Pasture Network Coordinator, Center for Sustainable Agriculture, University of Vermont, 590 Main St., Burlington, VT 05405; (802) 656-3834; e-mail [gharris@zoo.uvm.edu](mailto:gharris@zoo.uvm.edu).

**February 17-19, 2002**, IFOAM conference on Organic Guarantee Systems will be held in Nurnberg, Germany; contact International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, e-mail [headoffice@ifoam.org](mailto:headoffice@ifoam.org); on the Internet, <http://www.ifoam.org>.

**February 22-23, 2002**, Midwest Small Farm Conference and Trade Show will be held in Lafayette, IN; contact Steve Bonney, Sustainable Earth, (765) 463-9366.

**March 1-2, 2002**, Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference will be held in La Crosse, WI; contact Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Services, e-mail [moses@wwt.net](mailto:moses@wwt.net).

**May 9-11, 2002**, "All Things Organic" will be held in Austin, TX; contact Organic Trade Association, (413) 774-7511; e-mail [allthingsorganic@ota.com](mailto:allthingsorganic@ota.com).

**August 16-21, 2002**, "Cultivating Communities," the 14th Organic World Congress of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, will be held in Victoria, BC, Canada; contact IFOAM, c/o Building 20, 8801 East Saanich Rd., Sidney BC V8L 1H3, (250) 655-5662; e-mail [ifoam2002@cog.ca](mailto:ifoam2002@cog.ca); on the Internet, <http://www.cog.ca/ifoam2002>.

**November 17-20, 2002**, "Small Farms in an Ever-Changing World: Meeting the Challenges of Sustainable Livelihoods and Food Security in Diverse Rural Communities," the 17th Symposium of the International Farming Systems Association, will be held in Lake Buena Vista, FL; information is available on the Internet at <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/ifsa>; or contact Peter Hildebrand, Conference Organizer, University of Florida/IFAS, (352) 392-1965, e-mail [peh@ufl.edu](mailto:peh@ufl.edu).



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