

Alternative Agriculture News
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NEWS BRIEFS

- Organic Farming Systems Are More Efficient and Biodiverse, Long-Term Swiss Study Finds

A 21-year study by Swiss researchers, published in the journal *Science* (May 31), finds that organic farming systems use energy and other resources more efficiently, produce healthier soils, and support more biodiversity, compared to conventional systems. In the organic plots, fertilizer and energy inputs were 34 to 53 percent lower, and pesticide use was 97 percent lower, while crop yields were reduced, on average, by 21 percent. Overall, the organic systems were more efficient, using 20 to 56 percent less energy based on unit of crop yield or land area. Yield reductions for the five crops studied were variable, ranging from a 10 percent loss for organic wheat to about 38 percent for organic potatoes. The organic soils supported a larger and more varied community of organisms, both above and below ground, including soil-enhancing microbes and earthworms, pest-eating insects and spiders, and weed flora that included endangered plant species. "[The] results should be encouraging for farmers," since the organic yields are "stable over time...and soil fertility has increased," team leader Paul Mäder of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) told *BBC News* (May 31). "We conclude that organically manured, legume-based crop rotations utilizing organic fertilizers from the farm itself are a realistic alternative to conventional farming systems," the authors wrote. The ongoing research is conducted by FiBL and the Swiss Federal Research Station for Agroecology and Agriculture, a government agency. The *Science* report and a related news story are online (free to registered site users) at

<http://www.sciencemag.org>; more information on the so-called 'DOK trial' is available from FiBL at <http://www.fibl.ch/engl/index.html>.

-- New Information on Atrazine's Safety Complicates 'Special Review' by EPA

New information on atrazine, the most commonly used herbicide in the U.S., has renewed concerns about its safety for humans and the environment, and complicated the Environmental Protection Agency's current efforts to rewrite the regulations that govern the chemical's use. Atrazine, which is banned in several European countries, has been linked to cancer in humans, and more recently, to deformities in frogs. In a well-publicized study, California biologists found that laboratory exposure of tadpoles to trace levels of atrazine produced sexual malformations in the adult frogs (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, April 16). The effects occurred at doses as low as 0.1 parts per billion (ppb), 30 times lower than the EPA's current safety level for drinking water. Peak environmental levels of atrazine—up to several parts per million in spring runoff from farm fields—coincide with critical stages of larval development in frogs and other amphibians, the researchers noted. The EPA admits that the new data on altered reproductive systems in frogs may force it to seek an extension beyond its current August deadline for issuing the new rules (*New York Times*, June 2). In addition, a lawsuit brought by factory workers at Syngenta, the herbicide's primary manufacturer, who say their prostate cancers resulted from workplace exposure, will provide "new information for critics challenging the [agency's] decision two years ago to remove atrazine from its list of substances that probably cause cancer in humans," the Times article says. Though a preliminary review by EPA scientists earlier this year found that most drinking water is safe, it also identified numerous areas in the Midwest with seasonally high levels of atrazine in water supplies, where infant exposures may have exceeded existing safety thresholds. The frog study is online at <http://www.pnas.org>; information on the EPA's 'special review' of atrazine is available at <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/reregistration/atrazine>.

-- Earlier Flowering of British Plants Is "Clearest Biological Signal Yet" of Climate Change

Evidence of early flowering in British plants—up to 2 weeks earlier than a decade ago for many species—is "the clearest biological signal yet" of climate change, says research published in the journal *Science* (May 31). Relying on annual observations going back 47 years, and comparing temperature trends in the same area, the researchers found that among 385 plant species, the average first flowering date had advanced by 4.5 days in the past decade, the warmest on record, compared with the previous 36 years, and 16 percent flowered, on average, 15 days earlier. Plants pollinated by insects shifted their first flowering date more radically than did wind-pollinated plants, and a small number (3 percent) of plants flowered in the 1990s significantly later than previously. "The timing of flowering is a key event for plants," the authors wrote, since it influences their chances of pollination and the timing of fruit and seed ripening; it also affects insects and other animals that depend on plant pollen or seeds. They predicted that the flowering shifts would continue with rising temperatures, and that large changes in flowering date would disrupt the structure of ecosystems: species unable to cope will disappear, some cultivated plants will move into new habitats and likely become weeds, and new natural plant hybrids will appear (*AP*, May 30). Citing these and other new data on the impacts of global warming, from melting glaciers to shifting ranges for ocean plankton, a *Newsweek* article (Atlantic Edition, June 17) said "...it's becoming clear that the Earth's ecosystems...[have] begun the process of adapting to a warmer world." The *Science* article is online (free to registered site users) at <http://www.sciencemag.org>; a reprint is available from A.S. Fitter of York University, e-mail ahfl@york.ac.uk.

-- Government, Industry Should Act To Reduce Human Health Risks from Livestock Antibiotic Use, Panel Finds

The movement of microorganisms from food animals to humans is a "common occurrence," and agricultural use of antimicrobials (antibiotics) "contributes to the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance in human infections," according to a new assessment from a U.S. scientific panel. The researchers analyzed 500 published studies covering the ecological and food chain effects of antimicrobial use in farm animals, and also cumulative effects in the environment. Their report calls for "immediate action by government and the agriculture industry to reduce the human health risks" posed by antibiotic use in U.S. agriculture, according to the nonprofit Alliance for the Prudent Use of Antibiotics (APUA), which coordinated the study. Recommendations include eliminating non-therapeutic antibiotic use for promoting animal growth, and limiting farm use of drugs (such as fluoroquinolones) needed for hard-to-treat human infections. The panel proposes that regulatory agencies increase surveillance of antimicrobial resistance, and provide incentives for alternative management, including vaccine development. "The Need to Improve Antimicrobial Use in Agriculture: Ecological and Human Health Consequences," a set of articles published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases* (Vol. 34, Supplement 3, June 1, 2002), is online at <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/CID>; a summary of the so-called 'FAAIR Report' is available from APUA at <http://www.healthsci.tufts.edu/apua>.

-- Controversial Beef Checkoff Program Is Ruled Unconstitutional by South Dakota Federal Court

A U.S. District Court judge in South Dakota ruled on June 21 that the nationwide beef checkoff program violates First Amendment rights of free speech and association, and is thus unconstitutional, ordering the program to end on July 15, 2002. Authorized by Congress in 1985 to fund promotional advertising and development of beef products, the mandatory program collects a one-dollar fee from all U.S. cattle producers for each head of cattle sold, raising about \$88 million annually (*Omaha World-Herald*, June 22). The Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC), which joined the Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) in making the legal challenge to the beef program, has argued that the checkoff funds are an unfair tax used to promote programs that benefit primarily meat packers, processors, and retailers, instead of the cattle producers who pay the fees. According to WORC, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, which receives most of its funding from the checkoff fees, has worked against the interests of independent ranchers in a number of areas, including livestock market competition, international trade policy, and country-of-origin labeling for beef products. The full-text of the federal court ruling is available via a link from LMA's Web site, <http://www.lmaweb.com>.

-- USDA Drops Request from Georgia Poultry Producer to Loosen National Organic Rules

The USDA has dropped a request from a Georgia poultry producer to allow it and other companies to label their chickens 'organic,' even though the birds' diet is not 100% organic feed (*Atlantic Journal-Constitution*, June 11), and will "fully implement" the National Organic Program (NOP), according to the agency's June 10 statement. The exemption, which would have weakened federal organic standards scheduled to go into effect in October 2002, angered organic supporters and, according to critics, would have "shake[n] confidence in the small but fast-growing organic food industry" (*Los Angeles Times*, June 5). Organic industry officials had said that granting the waiver for livestock would render the 'organic' label meaningless for a wide range of food products, including meat, eggs, and dairy foods. In its petition to the USDA, Georgia-based Fieldale Farms had claimed there isn't enough organic grain and soybeans in the U.S. to feed the 300,000 organic chickens it wanted to produce each week, and asked for a "temporary order" allowing it to use a mix of conventional and organic feed. The firm had suggested the use of a special label indicating its birds were 'organically grown,' instead of the official USDA organic seal. Organic industry officials and large grain companies said there are ample organic grain supplies available

to meet current needs, only not at the price the company wants to pay. Information on the NOP regulations is available online at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>.

-- Conservation of Agricultural Biodiversity Gains International Support

Conservation of agricultural biodiversity gained additional support last month with the approval of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture by 45 more countries at the World Food Summit meeting held in mid-June. Canada, the 15 member states of the European Union, and India were among those that signed onto the treaty at the Rome conference, bringing the total to 56. The agreement "establishes a multilateral system to exchange the genetic resources of some 64 major crops and forages important for global food security," according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Its objectives are "the conservation of plant genetic resources, their sustainable use, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use...." The treaty was adopted by consensus (with only the U.S. and Japan abstaining) at the FAO conference held in November 2001, and enters into force once ratified by 40 nations. As of June 24, 7 of the 56 signatory nations had fully ratified the treaty. More information, including the full text of the treaty, is available at <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsummit/english>.

WALLACE CENTER/WINROCK NEWS

--Workshop Will Examine Linkages Between Agriculture and Rural Development Efforts

Examining the linkages between agricultural ventures, such as value-added and small-scale processing and marketing, and rural development efforts will be the focus of a one-day workshop jointly offered by the Wallace Center and the National Rural Development Partnership (NRDP). Participants will discuss the factors that make agriculture effective as an element of rural development, and also examine ways to overcome existing barriers that limit the role of agriculture in rural development institutions and initiatives at the federal, state, and local levels. The results of the session will help to develop broader thinking about possible models for more effective policies and programs. The workshop will be held on August 24 in French Lick, Indiana, in conjunction with the NRDP Annual Leadership Conference. For more information about the workshop, contact Shelly Grow, (703) 525-9430 ext. 682; wallacecenter@winrock.org.

RESOURCES

"Alternatives to Intensive Confinement Systems for Farm Animals: An Annotated Bibliography," March 2002 Update, is online at <http://www.awionline.org/farm/alt-farming.html>; for print availability, contact Adam at Animal Welfare Institute, (202) 338-9478; awi@awionline.org.

"Biodiesel: A Brief Overview"; Evaluating a Rural Enterprise: Marketing and Business Guide"; "Moving Beyond Conventional Cash Cropping"; and "Sustainable Agriculture Curricula: K-12" are among the new or updated resource publications available online at <http://www.attra.ncat.org>; printed copies are free from Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas, 1-800-346-9140.

"How to Grow More Vegetables (and Fruits, Nuts, Berries, Grains, and Other Crops)," 6th Edition, by John Jeavons, is \$17.95 from Ecology Action, 5798 Ridgewood Rd., Willits, CA 95490; (707) 459-0150.

OMRI's "Generic Materials List," 123 pages, and "Brand Name Products List," both newly revised to comply with the U.S. National Organic Program, are available for purchase from Organic Materials Review Institute, Box 11558, Eugene, OR 97440; (541) 343-7600, info@omri.org; the Brand Name Products List is also online at <http://www.omri.org>.

"Profitable Practices and Strategies for a New Generation," 18 case studies, from Center for Rural Affairs and North Central Initiative for Small Farm Profitability, is online at <http://www.farmprofitability.org>; a printed copy is \$5 from Center for Rural Affairs, P.O. Box 406, Walthill, NE 68067; (402) 846-5248; info@crfa.org.

"Regulating Pesticides: The California Story" (DPR Pub. No. 203), 135 pages, is online at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>; the print version is \$8 from Cashier, California Dept. of Pesticide Regulation, P.O. Box 4015, Sacramento, CA 95812-4015.

"Science and Technology: Public Attitudes and Understanding," including results of the 2001 National Science Foundation poll on biotechnology (Chapter 7 in Science and Engineering Indicators 2002) is available online at <http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/seind02>; the full document is free on compact disc from NSF, (301) 947-2722; paperpubs@nsf.gov.

"Seeking Common Ground for Conservation: How Conservation Measures Up in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002," 12 pages, is online at <http://www.swcs.org>; a printed copy is free from Judy Hansen, Soil and Water Conservation Society, 7515 NE Ankeny Rd., Ankeny, IA 50021-9764; (515) 289-2331 ext. 19; pubs@swcs.org.

"Steel in the Field: A Farmer's Guide to Weed Management Tools," 2002 Revised Edition, is \$18 plus \$3.95 shipping/handling from Sustainable Agriculture Publications, 210 Hills Bldg., University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405-0082; (802) 656-0484; sanpubs@uvm.edu.

"Urban and Agricultural Communities: Opportunities for Common Ground," 132 pages, is online at <http://www.cast-science.org>; the print version can be purchased from Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, (515) 282-2125.

"Vital Signs 2002: The Trends That Are Shaping Our Future," 215 pages, is \$14.95 from Worldwatch Institute, 1-888-544-2303; <http://www.worldwatch.org>.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Mid-July through October 2002)

July through September, Practical Farmers of Iowa Field Days and Community Days will be held across Iowa; contact Rick Exner, PFI Farming Systems Coordinator, Iowa State University, (515) 294-5486; dexner@iastate.edu; <http://www.pfi.iastate.edu>.

July through September, 2002 Iowa Field Days with Organic Agriculture Components will be held across Iowa; contact Kathleen Delate, Depts. of Agronomy/Horticulture, Iowa State University, (515) 294-7069; kdelate@iastate.edu; <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/organicag/events/02fielddays.html>.

July 6 (plus additional dates) for Kansas Graziers Association 2002 farm tours and workshops; contact Mary Howell, KGA Secretary, 1532 Yonder Rd., Frankfort, KS 66427; (785) 363-7306; marshallcofair@networksplus.net.

July 9 through August 17, Summer 2002 Farm Tours, 4 one-day events during this period, will be held in several counties near Albany, NY; contact Regional Farm & Food Project, 148 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206; (518) 427-6537; farmfood@capital.net; or Christopher Reed, (518) 672-7743.

July 10, 13, 25, 27, and 29 are the dates for 2002 field days and farm tours in Minnesota, hosted by Sustainable Agriculture On-farm Demonstration Grant recipients; contact Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture,

Energy & Sustainable Agriculture Program, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55107; (651) 297-2200; <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/esap/fielddays.htm>.

July 10, 17, and 24, "Innovations in Dairy Production," a series of 3 half-day events (on renewable energy from manure methane digestion, economic assistance for conservation practices, and new regulations for dairies), sponsored by Ecological Farming Association and Community Alliance with Family Farmers, will be held in Merced, CA; contact Sarah Potenza, Program Facilitator, EFA, (831) 763-2111; info@eco-farm.org; http://www.eco-farm.org/sa/sa_dairy.html.

July 10 through September 11, Farm Training Project 2002 Summer Workshops (including preserving the harvest, organic orcharding, and other topics) will be held in southern Maine; contact Richard Rudolph, Coordinator, Maine Organic Farming and Gardening Association, (207) 642-5161; or MOFGA office, (207) 568-4142; <http://www.mofga.org>.

July 11-14, "Low-Maintenance Landscaping with Native Plants," Wild Ones 2002 National Conference for home gardeners and landscapers, will be held in Columbus, OH; for information, visit Wild Ones' Web site, <http://www.for-wild.org/conference/am02.html>.

July 13 through September 10, OEFFA's Summer 2002 Farm Tour Series; for information on these one-day events to be held across Ohio, contact Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association, P.O. Box 82234, Columbus, OH 43202; (614) 421-2022; oeffa@iwaynet.net; <http://www.oeffa.org/tours.html>.

July 13, 16, and 26, August 4 and 18, and September 17, 2002 MOSES Organic Field Days will be held in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa; for more information, contact Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Services, Jody Padgham, (715) 667-5501; jodypadgham@hotmail.com.

July 13-17, "Setting the Pace for Conservation," the Soil and Water Conservation Society's 57th Annual Conference, will be held in Indianapolis, IN; contact SWCS, (515) 289-1227; <http://www.swcs.org>.

July 14-17, American Forage and Grassland Council Annual Conference/Trade Show will be held in Bloomington, MN, in conjunction with 10th Annual Minnesota Alfalfa and Forage Exposition, July 17-18, in Rosemount; contact Minnesota Forage and Grassland Council, (651) 436-3930; mfgc@umn.edu; <http://www.afgc.org>.

July 15 is the submission deadline for posters for 3rd California Conference on Biological Control to be held August 15-16 in Davis, CA; contact Brenda Nakamoto, Dean's Office, College of Agricultural and Environmental Science, UC Davis, (530) 752-1606; <http://www.biocontrol.ucr.edu>.

July 15 is the submission deadline for papers for "Regional Perspectives on Water Information Systems: Case Studies," Fifth Water Information Summit, to be held October 23-25 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL; contact Terry Dodge, Florida Center for Environmental Studies, Florida Atlantic University, (561) 691-8557; wis5@ces.fau.edu; <http://www.waterweb.org/wis/wis5>.

July 15 is the submission deadline for funding proposals for organic herb research; for information on this and other competitive grants in organic research and education, contact Organic Farming Research Foundation, P.O. Box 440, Santa Cruz, CA 95061; (831) 426-6606; research@ofrf.org; on the Internet, <http://www.ofrf.org>.

July 16-18, Women, Food and Agriculture Annual Conference will be held in Guthrie Center, IA; contact Denise O'Brien, Coordinator, Women, Food and Agriculture Network, (712) 243-3264; hnob@metc.net; http://www.pfi.iastate.edu/Calendar/WFAN_6_02.htm.

July 17-18, "Pharming the Field: A Look at the Benefits and Risks of Bioengineering Plants to Produce Pharmaceuticals," a workshop co-hosted by Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and USDA, will be held in Washington, DC; contact Pew Initiative, (202) 347-9044; <http://pewagbiotech.org/events/0717/>.

July 18, Field Day at West Virginia University Organic Research Farm will be held in Morgantown, WV; contact Jim Kotcon, Division of Plant and Soil Sciences, West Virginia University, (304) 293-3911 ext. 2230; jkotcon@wvu.edu.

July 18-20, "Ripe from Downtown," a national symposium on garden-based entrepreneur programs for youth, plus pre-conference workshop, will be held in Cleveland, OH; contact Cindy Walker, Cleveland Botanical Garden, (216) 721-1695 ext. 172; cwalker@cbgarden.org.

July 19-August 8, Permaculture Design Course for college credit through University of Massachusetts-Amherst, sponsored by Living Routes Inc., will be held in Shutesbury, MA; for information, 1-888-515-7333; programs@LivingRoutes.org; <http://www.livingroutes.org/programdetails/summerinst/overview.html>.

July 24-25, "Field Course in Organic Management," intensive training for agricultural professionals in the fundamentals of conversion, and organic field crop production, and July 26, 5th Annual Organic Field Day, will be held in Lamberton, MN; for both events, contact Molly Werner, Southwest Research and Outreach Center, (507) 752-737; werne022@tc.umn.edu; <http://swroc.coafes.umn.edu>.

July 25-27 (Marksville, LA), September 19 (Quitman, AR) and 24-24 (Branson, MO), and October 8-10 (Clemson, SC), and 17 (Spring Hill, TN), Sustainable Livestock Management Workshops sponsored by National Center for Appropriate Technology, Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas, and USDA NRCS will be held; contact ATTRA, 1-800-346-9140; <http://www.attra.org/beef/index.html>.

July 25-28, "Gardeners Restore Our World," 23rd Annual Conference of the American Community Gardening Association, will be held in New York City; contact ACGA, (215) 988-8785; <http://www.communitygarden.org>.

July 26-28, American Livestock Breeds Conservancy Regional Exposition, Orange County Agricultural Fair, will be held in Montpelier, VA; contact Richard Larson, Old Gjerpen Farm, 10042 Cedar Spring Lane, Culpeper, VA 22701; (540) 829-5683; reldjil@hotmail.com.

July 28, August 7 and 22, September 26, and October 15 are the dates for 2002 field days, farm tours, and other events in Pennsylvania; contact Kate Francis, Farm-Based Education Program Coordinator, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, (570) 387-6327; info@pasafarming.org.

July 29-31, Mid-Atlantic Dairy Grazing Conference will be held in Hickory, ND; contact Steve Washburn, Dept. of Animal Science, North Carolina State University, (919) 515-7726; Steve_Washburn@ncsu.edu.

July 30, "Farms, Food and the Future," a one-day conference on value-added agriculture, will be held in Ames, IA; for program information, contact Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, (515) 281-5321; for registration information, contact Deb Schmidt, Continuing Education and Communications Services, (515) 294-5961.

July 30-August 1, Third Annual Upper Midwest Grazing Conference will be held in Dubuque, IA; contact Larry Tranel, Dubuque County Extension, (563) 583-6496 ext. 14; tranel@iastate.edu; <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/info/upmw021.pdf>, or <http://www.wisc.edu/cias/uppermidwest>.

July 31 is the registration deadline for "The Role of Genetics and Evolution in Biological Control," IOBC International Symposium, to be held on October 14-15 in Montpellier, France; contact IOBC Symposium, AGROPOLIS, Avenue Agropolis, 34394 Montpellier, Cedex 5, France; iobc.symp@agropolis.fr; <http://www.iobc.agropolis.fr/symposium2002>.

August 1, Alternative Swine Program Field Day will be held in Morris, MN; contact Wayne Martin, West Central Research and Outreach Center, (612) 625-6224; marti067@tc.umn.edu.

August 4-9, "A Convocation: Understanding and Restoring Ecosystems," joint meeting of Ecological Society of America and Society for Ecological Restoration, will be held in Tucson, AZ; contact Tricia Crocker, ESA Meeting Registrar, (202) 833-8773 ext. 226; tricia@esa.org; <http://www.esa.org/Tucson>.

August 8 is the submission deadline for applications for the USDA's Value-Added Development Grants Program; information is available at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm>.

August 8-9, "Whole Farm Planning" workshop preceding the Northeast Organic Farming Association's 28th Annual Summer Conference to be held August 9-11 in Amherst, MA; contact NOFA Summer Conference, c/o Dennis & Audrey Cronin, (508) 799-2278; nofareg@juno.com; or Jack Kittredge, (978) 355-2853, jackkitt@aol.com; on the Internet, <http://www.massorganic.org>.

August 12-13, 2002 Nebraska Grazing Conference will be held in Kearney, NE; contact Buffalo County Extension Office, 1400 E 34, Kearney, NE 68847; (308) 236-1235; buffalo-county@unl.edu; <http://www.grassland.unl.edu/grazeconf.htm>.

August 12-14, "Higher Education and Research for Agriculture and Food in the 21st Century," a conference, will be held in San Francisco, CA; contact gchera@iastate.edu.

August 14-18, "The Community Effect in Rural Places," 65th Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociology Society, will be held in Chicago, IL; contact RSS Business Office, University of Missouri-Columbia, (573) 882-9065; ruralsoc@missouri.edu; <http://www.ruralsociology.org>.

August 16, Organization for Competitive Markets' "2002 Food and Agriculture Conference" will be held in Omaha, NE; contact Fred Stokes, (662) 476-5568 or Michael S. Stumo, (860) 379-6199; ocm@competitivemarkets.com.

August 16-18, "Rooted in Community," 4th Annual Conference organized by Neighborhood Nutrition Network, a program of Florida Organic Growers and Consumers, will be held in Gainesville, FL; contact FOG office, (352) 377-6345; foodfog@aol.com.

August 17, 2nd Annual Windy River Renewable Energy and Sustainable Agriculture Fair, and Photovoltaics (Solar Installation and Safety) Workshop on August 12-14, will be held in Long Prairie, MN; contact Lynda Converse, Sustainable Farming Association of Central Minnesota, phone/fax (320) 594-2456; converse@rea-alp.com; <http://www.sustainablefarmingcentralmn.com>; for the Photovoltaics Workshop, contact Greg Nolan, (320) 594-6317.

August 19-21, "Composting and Organics Recycling: Improving Operations, Building Markets," BioCycle Northeast Conference 2002, will be held in Portland, ME; contact BioCycle, (610) 961-4135 ext. 21; biocycle@jgpress.com; <http://www.biocycle.net>.

August 20-21, 7th International Congress on Organic Viticulture and Wine; and August 21-28, 14th International Conference and Exposition, "IFOAM 2002 Organic World Congress: Cultivating Communities," will be hosted by Canadian Organic Growers in Victoria, BC; for information, including pre-Congress tours; contact IFOAM 2002, (250) 655-5662; ifoam2002@cog.ca; <http://www.cog.ca/ifoam.2002>.

August 21, "Digesters for Managing Animal Waste: A Practical Workshop," a one-day conference on anaerobic digesters for producing renewable energy while minimizing environmental hazards of animal feedlots, will be held in St. Cloud, MN; contact Carl Nelson, The Minnesota Project, 1885 University Ave. West, Suite 315, St. Paul, MN 55104; (651) 645-6159 ext. 21; cnelson@mnproject.org; <http://www.mnproject.org>.

August 24-25, "SolFest 2002," 7th Annual Solar and Good Living Festival, will be held in Hopland, CA; contact Belle Star, (928) 649-8180; belle@sedonna.net; or visit Institute for Solar Living's Web site, <http://www.solarliving.org>.

August 25-28, National Rural Development Partnership's Annual Leadership Conference will be held in French Lick, IN, in conjunction with Wallace Center/NRDP Workshop on Value-Added Agriculture and Rural Development, on August 24; for registration information, contact Amanda Chapman, Sci-Comm Inc., 7735 Old Georgetown Rd., 5th Floor, Bethesda, MD 20814, (301) 652-1900 ext. 5091; achapman@scicomm.com; or contact NRDP, (202) 690-2394; <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/nrdp>; for workshop information, contact Wallace Center, (703) 525-9430 ext. 682; sgrow@winrock.org.

August 25-28, 3rd Annual Conference on Pesticide Stewardship, sponsored by National Pesticide Stewardship Alliance, will be held in Seattle, WA; contact Kathy Brooks, NPSA, 1156 15th St. NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005; 1-877-920-6772; kbrooks@arrowchase.com; <http://www.acrecycle.org/NPSA>.

August 26-September 4, World Summit on Sustainable Development will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa; for information visit United Nations Secretariat for the Summit's Web site, <http://www.johannesburgsummit.org>; for general questions on organizational participation and accreditation, e-mail 2002participation@un.org.

August 30 is the submission deadline for posters for "Northwest Symposium on Organic and Biointensive Farming: Advances in Research and Education," to be held November 8 in Yakima, WA, in conjunction with Tilth Producers of Washington Annual Conference, "The Family Farm on the Cutting Edge," November 8-10; regarding posters, contact Carol Miles, (360) 576-6030; milesc@wsu.edu; on the Web, <http://csanr.wsu.edu>; for conference information, contact Nancy Allen, Administrative Director, Tilth Producers, (206) 446-7620; nancy@tilthproducers.org.

August 30-September 1, "Urban Agriculture: Growing Food and Jobs on a Small Piece of Land," a workshop presented by Bioneers and the Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens, will be held in Goleta, CA; contact Collective Heritage Institute/Bioneers, (877) 246-6337 ext. 111; <http://www.bioneers.org>.

September 1 is the application deadline for international applicants (and November 1 for U.S. and Canadian applicants) for "Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture," a 6-month course in organic

gardening and small-scale farming to be held April 14-October 17, 2003, in Santa Cruz, CA; contact Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, University of California, 1156 High St., Santa Cruz, CA 95064; (831) 459-3240; apprenticeship@cats.ucsc.edu; <http://www.ucsc.edu/casfs>.

September 1 is the submission deadline for grant funding proposals from CSA farms and similar endeavors for projects "Linking Community Supported Agriculture to Low-Income Communities"; contact Eric Kreilick, Equity Trust Fund, (860) 376-6174; ekreilick@equitytrust.org.

September 2-October 15, "First Virtual Global Conference on Organic Beef Cattle Production by Internet," sponsored by EMPRAPA Brazil, will be held; contact Roberto Aguilar M.S. Silva, sac@cpap.embrapa.br; <http://www.conferencia.uncnet.br/pantanal/organica.en.html>.

September 5 is the availability date for applications for 2003 Oklahoma Producer Grant proposals, which must be submitted by November 21; contact Alan Ware or David Redhage, Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, (918) 647-9123; mailbox@kerrcenter.com; <http://www.kerrcenter.com>.

September 5-7, "Water Resources Restoration, Protection and Pollution Prevention: Where to Start? Who Can Help? Why Is It Important?" a symposium, plus pre-conference workshop on streambank restoration on September 3-4, will be held in Athens, GA; contact Brandon Anderson, Coordinator, Georgia Stream Buffer Initiative, University of Georgia, Driftmier Engineering Center, Athens, GA 30602-4435; upperocmulgee@yahoo.com.

September 5-8, "One Earth," 2nd Annual Century of the Environment Conference, will be held in Rhinebeck, NY; contact Omega Institute for Holistic Studies, 150 Lake Dr., Rhinebeck, NY 12572; 1-800-944-1001; registration@eomega.org; <http://www.eomega.org>.

September 6 is the abstract submission deadline for papers for an edited volume on "The Role of Rural-Urban Linkages in Sustainable Agriculture"; for more information, contact Karen Krug, Centre for the Environment, Brock University, St. Catharines, ON L2S 3A1 Canada; karen.krug@brocku.ca, or Robert Feagan, Contemporary Studies, Laurier Brantford, Wilfried Laurier University, 73 George St., Brantford, ON N3T 2Y3 Canada; (519) 756-8228 ext. 5708#; rfeagan@wlu.edu.

September 8-12, "Monitoring and Modeling from the Peaks to the Plains," the 10th National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Workshop, will be held in Breckenridge, CO; contact Tammy Taylor, taylor@ctic.purdue.edu; <http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/NPSWorkshop.html>.

September 15 is the start date for the 7th Elfin Permaculture Design Course Online, a 6-month course; information is online at <http://barkingfrogspc.tripod.com/frames.html>.

September 16-19, National Extension Tourism Conference will be held in Traverse City, MI; contact Philip J. Alexander, Co-Chair, 800 Livingston Blvd., #4A-2, Gaylord, MI 49735-8321; (989) 731-0272; alexande@msue.msu.edu.

September 17 and 19, Conservation Tillage 2002 Conference will be held in Davis and Five Points, CA; contact Jeff Mitchell, Dept. of Vegetable Crops, University of California, (559) 646-6565; michell@uckac.edu; <http://groups.ucanr.org/ucct>.

September 17-20, Third National Small Farm Conference will be held in Albuquerque, NM; contact Denis Ebodaghe, USDA-CSREES Small Farm Program, debodaghe@reeusda.gov; or Edmund Gomez, New Mexico Small Farm Coordinator, (505) 852-2668, gr@nmsu.edu; <http://www.reeusda.gov/smallfarm>.

September 18-21, "Genetic Engineering and the Intrinsic Value and Integrity of Animals and Plants," International Forum for Genetic Engineering Workshop, will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland; contact Conference Office: David J. Heaf, Hafan, Cae Llwyd, Llanystumdwy, Cricieth, Gwynedd Wales LL52 0SG, UK; phone/fax +44 (0) 1766 523181; 101622.2773@compuserve.com; on the Internet, <http://www.anth.org/ifgene/2002.htm>.

September 19-20, 12th Annual Composting Conference will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia; contact Composting Council of Canada, 16 Northumberland St., Toronto ON M6H 1P7, Canada; (416) 535-0240, ccc@compost.org; <http://www.compost.org>.

September 19-21, "Pasturing for Profit: Advanced Grazing Management" will be held in Poteau, OK; contact Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, P.O. Box 588, Poteau, OK 74953; (918) 647-9123; mailbox@kerrcenter.com; <http://www.kerrcenter.com>.

September 20-22, "Selecting Genetics for Sustainable Livestock Production," American Livestock Breed Conservancy's 2002 Annual Conference, and New England Heritage Breeds Conservancy's annual exhibition and sale will be held in Pittsfield, MA; contact ALBC, (919) 542-5704; albc@albc-usa.org.

September 20-22, 26th Annual Common Ground Country Fair will be held in Unity, ME; contact Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, P.O. Box 170, Unity, ME 04988; (207) 568-4142; cgcf@mofga.org; <http://www.mofga.org>.

September 21-22, Prairie Festival 2002 will be held in Salina, KS; contact The Land Institute, 2440 E. Water Well Rd., Salina, KS 67401; (785) 823-5376; theland@landinstitute.org; <http://www.LandInstitute.org>.

September 23-27 and October 21-25, Maine Compost School offering training in medium- and large-scale composting operations will be held in Monmouth, ME; contact Neal Hallee, UMCE-Waste Management, 5741 Libby Hall, Orono, ME 04469-5741; (207) 581-2722; nhallee@umext.maine.edu; <http://www.composting.org>.

September 24-26, "Diversifying Your Agricultural Operation," a conference on agri-entrepreneur opportunities, supported by Western Region Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education Professional Development Program, will be held in Sheridan, WY; contact Boyd Byelich, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, (307) 772-2015; or Cindy Garrestson-Weibel, Wyoming Business Council, (307) 777-6589; <http://www.agdiversity.org/education.htm>.

September 26-27, "Working with Organic Farmers: Enhancing Agency Involvement in the Northeast," will be held in Kerhonkson, NY; for workshop information, contact Vern Grubinger, Organic PDP Conference, University of Vermont Extension, 157 Old Guilford Rd. Suite 4, Brattleboro, VT 05301-3699; (802) 257-7697 ext. 13; vernon.grubinger@uvm.edu; <http://www.uvm.edu/vtbegandberry/organicconf.html>.

October 1-3, 3rd Eastern Native Grass Symposium will be held in Chapel Hill, NC; contact Teresa Flora, North Carolina Botanical Garden, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, tflora@email.unc.edu; <http://www.unc.edu/depts/ncbg/symposium.htm>.

October 3, Minnesota Sustainable Communities Network Annual Conference will be held in St. Paul, MN; contact Paul Moss or Philipp Muessig, Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance, 1-800-657-3843 or (651) 296-3417.

October 3-5, Mid-Atlantic Biodynamic Food and Farming Conference will be held in Neersville, VA; contact Allan Balliett, P.O. Box 3047, Shepherdstown, WV 25443; (540) 668-6165; allan@gardeningforthefuture.com; <http://www.gardeningforthefuture.com>.

October 3-6, Natural Products Expo East will be held in Washington, DC; contact New Hope Natural Media, 1401 Pearl St., Suite 200, Boulder, CO 80302; (866) 458-4935; tradeshows@newhope.com; <http://www.naturalproductexpo.com>.

October 4-5, "Production Farming with Community Development," a training workshop, will be held in Lincoln, MA; contact Food Project Institute, P.O. Box 705, Lincoln, MA 01773; (781) 259-8621; <http://www.thefoodproject.org/fpi>.

October 4-6, 26th Annual Provender Alliance Educational Conference will be held in Ashland, OR; contact (888) 352-7431; info@provender.org; <http://www.provender.org>.

October 4, "Farm to Cafeteria: Healthy Farms, Healthy Students," a national conference, and October 5-7, Sixth Annual Community Food Security Coalition Conference, will be held in Seattle, WA; contact CFSC, PO Box 209, Venice, CA 90294; (310) 822-5410; cfsc@foodsecurity.org; <http://www.foodsecurity.org>.

October 7-9, "Restoring Impaired Wetlands and Other Waters," National Symposium: Wetlands 2002, will be held in Indianapolis, IN; contact Tammy Taylor, Conservation Technology Information Center, taylor@ctic.purdue.edu; <http://www.core4.org/wetlands>.

October 7-13, Continental Bioregional Congress, organized by the Kansas Area Watershed Council, will be held in the Flint Hills of Kansas; for invitation materials, contact Jerry Sipe, Logistics Coordinator, jersipe@earthlink.net; for group involvement, contact Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg, Coordinator, carynken@mindspring.com; or KAWC, P.O. Box 1512, Lawrence, KS 66044; (785) 842-5772.

October 8-10, "Changing Faces of Conservation and Agriculture: The Future of Working Lands," sponsored by West North Central Region, Soil and Water Conservation Society, will be held in Moline, IL; contact Chris Murray, chrism@agribiz.org; or Lynn Betts, lynn.betts@ia.usda.gov; on the Internet, http://www.iaswcs.org/west_north_central.htm.

October 11 is the submission deadline for posters and abstracts for "Training Tomorrow's Trainers: A Regional Conference for Students of Sustainable Agriculture," sponsored by North Central Region SARE, University of Wisconsin Extension, and UW Center for Integrated Agriculture Systems, to be held October 25-27 in Madison, WI; contact Chad Kruger, (608) 265-6483; cekruger@students.wisc.edu; or Diane Mayerfeld, (515) 294-7836; dmayerfe@iastate.edu; on the Internet, <http://www1.uwex.edu/ces/ag/sustainableconference/>.

October 12-15, Principles of Community Organizing Training Session will be held in Twin Falls, ID; contact Western Organization of Resource Councils, (406) 252-9672; billings@worc.org; on the Internet, <http://www.worc.org>.

October 18-20, "Visionary & Practical Solutions for Restoring the Earth," Bioneers 2002 Conference, will be held in San Rafael, CA; contact Bioneers, 1-877-246-6337; info@bioneers.org; <http://www.bioneers.org>.

October 23-26, "On the Road to Sustainable Agriculture," a national conference with on-site tours, hosted by USDA Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program, will be held in Raleigh-Durham, NC; contact Southern SARE Office, (770) 412-4786; ppatton@gaes.griffin.peachnet.edu; <http://www.griffin.peachnet.edu/sare>.

October 31-November 2, "Thinking Outside the Box Sustainably," 10th National Small Farm Trade Show and Conference, will be held in Columbia, MO; contact Small Farm Today magazine, 1-800-633-2535; <http://www.smallfarmtoday.com>.

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This electronic edition of ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURE NEWS compiles "Upcoming Events" from previous issues and lists those received too late for inclusion in the corresponding hardcopy edition mailed to subscribers. Back issues of the newsletter are available at the Wallace Center's Web page, <http://www.winrock.org/wallacecenter/aanews.htm>. For information on subscribing to the hardcopy edition, contact Suzanne DeMuth, AAN Editor, wallacecenter@winrock.org (full contact information is on page 1). All materials in the newsletter may be used without permission, provided credit is given.

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