

Alternative Agriculture News  
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### NEWS BRIEFS

- Contamination by 'Biopharm' Corn Prompts Criticism from Ag Biotech Friends and Foes

The disclosure that 'biopharm' crops have twice contaminated conventional field crops in midwestern U.S. states in recent months has "prompted a wave of criticism from both friends and foes of the agricultural biotech industry, and calls for more safeguards to prevent drug-laced crops [from] landing on the dinner table" (*New Scientist*, November 23). The USDA and the Food and Drug Administration, jointly responsible with the Environmental Protection Agency for regulating transgenic crops, announced last month that soybeans in Nebraska and corn in Iowa had been contaminated by experimental corn owned by ProdiGene, a Texas-based biotechnology firm. The company later disclosed that its test corn contained a protein intended for vaccine use against a viral disease in pigs (*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, Nov. 22). In September, the USDA ordered burning of 155 acres of Iowa corn possibly tainted by pollen from Prodigene's experimental crop, and in a separate incident in October, the agency quarantined 500,000 bushels of contaminated soybeans in a Nebraska grain elevator. In that case, the company failed to follow USDA inspectors' orders to remove volunteer corn plants from a later soybean crop, which ultimately became mixed with stored soybeans destined for human or animal consumption. According to news sources, the FDA has reached agreement with ProdiGene on increased federal scrutiny to better contain the firm's biotech crops, while the USDA was continuing its investigation of the contamination mishaps, which could include levying fines of \$500,000 or up to twice the value of the Nebraska soybeans, worth \$2.7 million (*AP*, Nov. 19; *Omaha World-Herald*, Nov. 20).

## -- Updated Standards To Reduce Pesticide Risks Are Adopted by UN Food Agency

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations announced on November 4 new global standards to minimize health and environmental problems, especially in developing countries, caused by “the improper distribution and use of pesticides and highly toxic compounds.” First established in 1985, the revised ‘International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides’ sets stronger standards of responsibility for governments, industry, traders, pesticide users, public interest groups, and international organizations. It urges manufacturers to address deficiencies in product quality, handling, and packaging, and to recall highly toxic agents (such as organophosphorus and carbamate insecticides) that pose an “unacceptable risk” to people and the environment. The code promotes integrated pest management (IPM) strategies and natural pest control systems, and calls on developing country governments to enforce existing laws regarding pesticide distribution and use. Citing World Health Organization data, the FAO notes that more than 80 percent of pesticide chemicals are applied in developed nations, while 99 percent of all poisoning cases—estimated at 25 million annually with up to 20,000 accidental deaths—occur in the poorest countries where regulatory, health, and education systems are weakest. More information is online at <http://www.fao.org/english/newsroom>.

## -- Reduced Sperm Quality in Rural Mid-Missouri Suggests Farm Chemicals May Play Role

New research published last month indicates that men living in rural mid-Missouri have “significantly lower” sperm numbers and quality than their urban counterparts, and the authors suspect that environmental factors such as agricultural chemicals may contribute to the differences (*Reuters*, November 13, <http://www.planetark.org>). The first U.S. study to use highly standardized methods to compare semen from different geographical areas, it analyzed semen from the male partners of 512 pregnant women undergoing prenatal care at clinics in four different sites. Semen quality was found to be equally high in Minneapolis and New York City, slightly lower in Los Angeles, but much diminished in men from Boone County, Missouri. The only other published report on sperm quality in a comparable semi-rural population also found reduced sperm concentration in Iowa City, Iowa. Research leader Shanna Swan pointed out that 57 percent of the area in which the Missouri subjects lived is used for farming, compared to 0 to 19 percent in the three urban sites; further studies are examining the men’s exposure to specific agricultural chemicals (*AScribe Newswire*, Nov. 7). The report appeared in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* (Nov. 11 online edition); for a reprint, contact S.H. Swan, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Missouri, MA306 Medical Sciences, Columbia, MO 65212; e-mail [SwanS@health.missouri.edu](mailto:SwanS@health.missouri.edu).

## -- New Studies Challenge Atrazine’s Safety, Also Fuel Uncertainty of Gender-Bending Effects in Frogs

Despite a “flurry of new results in what is becoming an increasingly intense debate,” scientific controversy continues over whether atrazine, the most commonly used herbicide in the U.S., is harming amphibians in the wild (*New York Times*, November 19). Recent field and laboratory studies by a University of Berkeley research team has confirmed the group’s earlier work showing that trace amounts of atrazine interfere with normal sexual development in frogs at levels far below the EPA’s safety threshold for drinking water. Tyrone Hayes and colleagues collected immature leopard frogs, a common North American species, from ponds and streams in eight sites extending from Utah to Iowa, and found large numbers of ‘feminized’ male frogs at the seven sites with measurable levels of atrazine. The results of these and additional studies with a second native frog species appeared in *Nature* (Oct. 31) and the November issue of *Environmental Health Perspectives*. Prior work by the California group published earlier this year had scrutinized the chemical’s effects in an African frog species specifically bred for the laboratory. Some scientists have criticized this work or its relevance to wild frog declines, and according to the Times story, two industry-sponsored studies presented at a November conference failed to replicate the Berkeley team’s initial findings of sexual malformations in the African frog species. The EPA has

delayed until 2003 its final report on reregistering the herbicide in order to fully evaluate the newest evidence (*Baton Rouge Advocate*, Nov. 17). Additional reporting on the atrazine debate appeared in *Science* magazine (Nov. 1), *Science News* (Nov. 2, <http://www.sciencenews.org>), and the *San Francisco Chronicle* (Nov. 4, <http://www.sfgate.com>).

#### -- Organic Diets Are Linked to Lower Pesticide Levels in Children

Children who eat organic foods have lower body levels of organophosphorus pesticides, according to a new study reported in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* (October 31 online edition). University of Washington researchers compared the levels of an organophosphate metabolite in pre-school children in Seattle who consumed conventionally grown or organic produce and found pesticide residue levels nine times higher on average in those who ate conventional fruits and vegetables. Dosage estimates showed that consuming organic produce reduced the children's exposure levels from above to below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's safety levels, effectively shifting their exposures from a range of 'uncertain risk' to a range of 'negligible risk.' "Consumption of organic produce appears to provide a relatively simple means for parents to reduce their children's exposure to organophosphorus pesticides," the authors concluded. For a reprint of the article, contact lead author Cynthia Curl, Dept. of Environmental Health, University of Washington, phone (206) 685-1958; [ccurl@u.washington.edu](mailto:ccurl@u.washington.edu); an abstract is available online at <http://ehpnet1.niehs.nih.gov/docs/2003/5754/abstract.pdf>.

#### -- National Pork Checkoff Is Ruled Unconstitutional; Appeals Court Grants USDA's Extension Request

Responding to an emergency motion by the USDA, a November 15 appeals court ruling has extended the national pork checkoff program until the case against it is settled. A federal judge in Michigan ruled on October 24 that the controversial pork marketing program—best known for funding 'the other white meat' campaign—violates the constitutionally guaranteed rights of independent hog producers, and ordered it to end in 30 days (*New York Times*, October 28). Authorized by Congress in 1986, the pork checkoff collects 40 cents per \$100 of hog sales and raises about \$50 million annually. U.S. District Judge Richard Enslen sided with the Campaign for Family Farms' (CFF) argument that the mandatory fees infringe on hog producers' rights to free speech by forcing them to pay into a program that preferentially supports factory-style hog operations and promotes generic pork products. The CFF (a coalition of four farm and rural groups) and individual hog farmers pursued the legal case after Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman set aside the results of a nationwide referendum in which a majority of hog farmers voted two years ago to abolish the checkoff. Rhonda Perry of CFF told *Agweek* (Nov. 4) that the "checkoff concept is outdated" and "cannot bring prosperity to all the different sectors of the hog industry"; she cited the need for alternatives that ensure direct accountability to those who pay. Industry and legal observers say that the fate of the pork program and other controversial checkoffs will likely be decided by the U.S. Supreme Court (*Kiplinger Agricultural Letter*, Nov. 1; *Omaha World-Herald*, Dec. 2, <http://www.myswine.com/news>). More information including the Michigan judge's 33-page decision is online from the Farmers' Legal Action Group (<http://www.flaginc.org>), which represented CFF and the individual farmers.

#### -- USDA, Florida Announce \$153 Million Program To Aid Everglades Restoration

Florida farmers will gain a new incentive to restore wetlands, create wildlife habitat, and protect water quality in the state's threatened Everglades region and other sensitive ecosystems under a new program funded by the USDA and the state of Florida (*Greenwire*, October 31). Costing \$153 million over 15 years, the Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program will provide money to farmers who voluntarily retire sensitive lands adjacent to waterways and wetlands, plant native grasses and trees, and restore wetlands that had been converted to farm fields. "The program is meant to complement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), aid farmers in meeting the requirements of a new

water quality program, and create new wildlife habitat in a state with rich biodiversity that is under constant pressure from a growing human population,” the article said. A Florida Audubon Society official stated that the initiative promises to have a significant impact in improving both water quality and quantity in the state— “it really takes us in the direction we want to go,” he told *Greenwire*. The USDA’s October 28 statement is available online at <http://www.usda.gov/newsroom.html>; additional information on the CERP is posted at <http://www.evergladesplan.org>.

## RESOURCES

“Agri-Culture: Reconnecting People, Land and Nature” (240 pgs) by Jules Pretty is available for purchase from the publisher, Earthscan Publications, <http://www.earthscan.co.uk>, or \$24.95 from Stylus Publishing, 1-800-232-0223, <http://www.styluspub.com>, or other book sellers.

“Amazing Grazing Directory” of local sources for grass-fed meat and dairy products in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia is online at <http://www.futureharvestcasa.org>; the 15-pg brochure is free from Bruce Mertz, Future Harvest-CASA, 106 Market Court, Stevensville, MD 21666; (410) 604-2681; [fhcasa@umail.umd.edu](mailto:fhcasa@umail.umd.edu).

“The Eco-Foods Guide: What’s Good for the Earth is Good for You” (271 pgs) by Cynthia Barstow is \$17.95 from New Society Publishers, 1-800-567-6772, <http://www.newsociety.com>, or other book retailers.

“Farmers’ Markets: Rules, Regulations and Opportunities,” a 49-page research article, is online via a link from <http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/publications/index.html>; or contact author Neil Hamilton, National Agricultural Law Center, Drake University, (479) 575-7646, [ncalri@uark.edu](mailto:ncalri@uark.edu).

“Farmland Protection: The Role of Public Preferences for Rural Amenities” (66 pgs, #AER815) is online at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/aer815/>; a print copy is \$29.50 plus S/H from USDA Order Desk, 1-800-999-6779.

“Fruit Crop Ecology and Management” (104 pgs, Bulletin #E-2759) is \$16 from Michigan State University Extension, (517) 355-0240; <http://www.msue.msu.edu/ipm/EcoForm.htm>.

“In the Eyes of the Law: Legal Issues Associated with Direct Farm Marketing” (#BU-07683) is \$10 plus \$3.50 S/H from Univ. of Minnesota Extension Service, (612) 624-4900; [order@extension.umn.edu](mailto:order@extension.umn.edu); <http://www.extension.umn.edu>.

“Meeting the Diverse Needs of Limited-Resource Producers,” a 16-pg bulletin for agricultural educators and development organizations, is online at <http://www.sare.org/bulletin/limited-resource>; a print copy is free from Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program’s National Office, (301) 504-5236; [san@sare.org](mailto:san@sare.org).

“Organic Agriculture Worldwide 2003, Directory of IFOAM Members” is 16 Euro/US\$, and “The World Goes Organic,” a 30-minute video, is 19 Euro/US\$; contact International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, Oekozentrum Imsbach, D-66636 Tholey-Theley, Germany; [headoffice@ifoam.org](mailto:headoffice@ifoam.org); <http://www.ifoam.org>.

“The Organic Decision: Making the Transition to Organic Dairy Production,” a 40-pg workbook from Cornell Cooperative Extension and Northeast Dairy Producers Alliance, is online at <http://www.organic.cornell.edu/research/tsfsumms/2001/index.html>; a print copy is \$12 from Faye Butts, (607) 254-7412, [fsb1@cornell.edu](mailto:fsb1@cornell.edu).

“Organic Farming and Marketing: Publications from USDA,” a bibliography (1992-2002), is online at [http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/AFSIC\\_pubs/orgusda.htm](http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/AFSIC_pubs/orgusda.htm); a print copy is free from Alternative Farming Systems Information Center, National Agricultural Library, (301) 504-6559; [afsic@nal.usda.gov](mailto:afsic@nal.usda.gov).

“PANNA Online Pesticide Database,” updated with international chemical pesticide regulatory information from 129 countries, and least/non-toxic pesticide alternatives, is online from Pesticide Action Network North America at <http://www.pesticideinfo.org>.

“Resource Directory of Small Business Environmental Assistance Providers” (94 pgs) is online at <http://www.smallbiz-enviroweb.org>; a print copy is free from Small Business Division, U.S. EPA, 1-800-368-5888.

“Seeds of Doubt: Experiences of North American Farmers of Genetically Modified Crops” (67 pgs) is online at <http://www.soilassociation.org>; a print copy is £12 (non-member price) from Soil Association, Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria St., Bristol, BS1 6BY U.K.; fax 0117 925 2504; [info@soilassociation.org](mailto:info@soilassociation.org).

“What Successful Small Farmers Say,” a 96-pg report on successful small farm operators surveyed in New York State, is online at [http://agfinance.aem.cornell.edu/Small\\_Farms.htm](http://agfinance.aem.cornell.edu/Small_Farms.htm); a print copy is \$12 from Dept. of Applied Economics & Management, Cornell University, 357 Warren Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853; (607) 255-1589; [cf44@cornell.edu](mailto:cf44@cornell.edu).

“Where Does Your Food Come From? Recipes for Communicating Effectively about American Agriculture,” a communications toolkit, is free (plus postage cost for non-U.S. orders) from FoodRoutes Network, P.O. Box 443, Millheim, PA 16854; (814) 349-8030; <http://www.foodroutes.org>.

CALENDAR (mid-December through May 2003; \* marks new events added since last month’s issue)

#### -- FUNDING OPPORTUNITY & AWARD DEADLINES

January 6, 2003, is the nomination deadline for 3 openings for producers for Northeast Region SARE’s Sustainable Farmer Educator competitive grant-support program; for applications, (802) 656-0471; <http://www.uvm.edu/~nesare/>; for questions, contact David Holm, Regional Program Manager, (802) 656-0487; [dholm@zoo.uvm.edu](mailto:dholm@zoo.uvm.edu).

January 8, 2003, is the proposal submission deadline for Graduate Student Award in Sustainable Agriculture, for research projects by full-time graduate students at accredited colleges/universities in the Southern Region; contact Southern Region SARE, (770) 412-4787; [ppatton@griffin.peachnet.edu](mailto:ppatton@griffin.peachnet.edu); <http://www.griffin.peachnet.edu/sare>.

\*January 15, 2003, is the proposal submission deadline for educational or research grants from the Organic Farming Research Association; contact Jane Sooby, Technical Program Coordinator, Organic Farming Research Foundation, (831) 426-6606; [research@ofrf.org](mailto:research@ofrf.org) or [jane@ofrf.org](mailto:jane@ofrf.org); <http://www.ofrf.org>.

January 24, 2003, is the proposal submission deadline for Southern Region SARE Producer Grants, and On-Farm Research Grants; for eligibility and details, contact Southern SARE, (770) 412-4787; [ppatton@griffin.peachnet.edu](mailto:ppatton@griffin.peachnet.edu); <http://www.griffin.peachnet.edu/sare>.

-- CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, OTHER EVENTS

\*December 13 is the (extended) submission deadline for abstracts for presentations to 2003 Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference to be held July 26-30, 2003, in Spokane, WA; contact Nancy Herselius, [nancyh@swcs.org](mailto:nancyh@swcs.org); [http://www.swcs.org/t\\_what\\_callforpapers03.htm](http://www.swcs.org/t_what_callforpapers03.htm)

December 14, "Common Threads in the Fabric of Farming: Honoring the Role of Women," 3rd Annual New England Women in Agriculture Conference, hosted by Maine WagN, in Lewiston, ME; contact Mary Peabody, (802) 656-3276; [mary.peabody@uvm.edu](mailto:mary.peabody@uvm.edu), or [wagn@zoo.uvn.edu](mailto:wagn@zoo.uvn.edu); <http://www.uvm.edu/~wagn/womeninag.html>.

December 16 is the poster submission deadline for "Building Alliances for the Future of IPM," 4th Annual Integrated Pest Management Symposium/Workshop, to be held April 8-10, 2003, in Indianapolis, IN; contact Elaine Wolff, (217) 333-2881; [ipmsymposium@ad.uiuc.edu](mailto:ipmsymposium@ad.uiuc.edu); <http://www.conted.uiuc.edu/ipm>.

January 3 and 10, 2003, "Alternative Dairy and Farmstead Cheesemaking" workshops will be held near Shippshewanna, IN; contact Kelly Easterday, Purdue Extension, (574) 372-2340, [kelly.easterday@ces.purdue.edu](mailto:kelly.easterday@ces.purdue.edu).

\*January 3-5, 2003, "The Future of Agriculture," 15th Soil Association national conference on organic food and farming, in Cirencester, U.K.; contact Martin Cottingham, Conference Director, phone 0177 914 2414; [mcottingham@soilassociation.org](mailto:mcottingham@soilassociation.org); <http://www.soilassociation.org>.

January 8-10, 2003, Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Cropping Systems Conference and Trade Show, organized by Pacific Northwest STEEP and Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Assoc., in Pasco, WA; contact STEEP, (208) 885-6386; <http://www.pnwsteep.wsu.edu/directseed/conf2K3/index.htm>.

January 8-11, 2003, 11th Annual National No-Tillage Conference, in Indianapolis, IN; contact No-Till Farmer, 1-800-645-8455; <http://www.lesspub.com/ntf/NNTC/nntc.html>.

\*January 10-11, 2003, Great Plains Vegetable Conference and Trade Show, in St. Joseph, MO; contact Christy Dipman, Kansas State University, (785) 532-6173; [cdipman@oznet.ksu.edu](mailto:cdipman@oznet.ksu.edu); or Kathy Bennetch, (402) 472-8616.

January 10-12, 2003, "Ecological Cut Flower Growing & Marketing," Sixth Annual Farmer-to-Farmer Workshop Series for Organic & Ecological Growers, in Ballston Spa, NY; contact Regional Farm & Food Project, (518) 427-6537; [farmfood@capital.net](mailto:farmfood@capital.net); <http://www.capital.net/~farmfood/>.

\*January 11, 2003, Low Input Sustainable Farming Conference, in Geneva, NY; contact Bill Henning at 315-536-5123; [wrh6@cornell.edu](mailto:wrh6@cornell.edu) (registration deadline is December 20).

January 14-16, 2003, Organic Vegetable Production Workshops, in Geneva, NY; contact Abby Seaman, Cornell Cooperative Extension, (315) 787-2422; [ajs32@cornell.edu](mailto:ajs32@cornell.edu).

\*January 15 is the abstract submission deadline for paper and poster presentations to "Agroforestry and Riparian Buffers for Land Productivity and Environmental Stability," 8th North American Agroforestry Conference, to be held June 22-25, 2003, in Corvallis, OR; contact S. Sharrow, Dept. of Rangeland Resources, Oregon State University, [Steven.H.Sharrow@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Steven.H.Sharrow@oregonstate.edu); [http://www.missouri.edu/~afta/Whats\\_New/2003call4papers.htm](http://www.missouri.edu/~afta/Whats_New/2003call4papers.htm).

\*January 15-17, 2003, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives Annual Convention, in Hawaii; for information, <http://www.ncfc.org/annual2003/>.

\*January 15-18, 2003, National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants 2003 Annual Meeting, in Arlington, VA; for information, [JonesNAICC@aol.com](mailto:JonesNAICC@aol.com); (901) 861-0511; <http://www.naicc.org>.

\*January 16-18, 2003, "Ranching at the Crossroads: Forging a West That Works," 2nd Annual Quivira Coalition Annual Conference, in Albuquerque, NM; contact The Quivira Coalition, 51 Cordova Rd. #423, Santa Fe, NM 87505; (505) 820-2544; [projects@quiviracoalition.org](mailto:projects@quiviracoalition.org).

\*January 17-18, 2003, Fourth Annual "Farming for Profit and Stewardship" Conference, in Hagerstown, MD; contact Bruce Mertz, Future Harvest-CASA, 106 Market Court, Stevensville, MD 21666; (410) 604-2681; [fhcasa@umail.umd.edu](mailto:fhcasa@umail.umd.edu).

January 18, 2003, FarmDirect Conference, in Waukesha, WI; contact Rose Skora, (262) 886-8460; [rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:rose.skora@ces.uwex.edu); or Dave Williams, (262) 548-7770; <http://www.uwex.edu/ces/secommhort/farmdirect.htm>.

January 21-23 and 28-29, 2003, NOFA/Massachusetts Chapter's 2nd annual course in organic land care, in Boylston, MA; contact M. Castriotta, (617) 576-0810; [castriotta@aol.com](mailto:castriotta@aol.com); <http://www.massorganic.org/programs/landcare/index.html>.

\*January 22-23, 2003, Heart of America Grazing Conference hosted by University of Missouri Outreach and Extension, for graziers in IL, IN, KY, MO, and OH, in Hannibal, MO; contact (573) 985-3911; [Kennetta@missouri.edu](mailto:Kennetta@missouri.edu); or Bob Yoder, (812) 254-8668; <http://www.agry.purdue.edu/ext/programs/HeartofAmericaGrazing2003.pdf/>.

January 22-25, 2003, "Planting Local Values in a Global Environment," 22nd Annual Eco-Farm Conference, in Pacific Grove, CA; contact Ecological Farming Association, (831) 763-2111; [info@eco-farm.org](mailto:info@eco-farm.org); <http://www.eco-farm.org>.

January 23-25, 2003, Minnesota Grazing and Organic Conference, including day-long workshops on business planning, beginning organic production, and advanced grazing management, in St. Cloud, MN; contact Doug or Jan Gunnink, (507) 237-5162; [dgunnink@prairie.lakes.com](mailto:dgunnink@prairie.lakes.com).

January 23-26, 2003, 22nd Annual Organic Conference, Trade Show & Sampling Fair, co-sponsored by Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada, in Guelph, Ontario, Canada; contact Tomas Nimmo, Conference Manager, Box 116, Collingwood ON Canada, L9Y 3Z4; (704) 444-0923 (or (519) 824-4120 ext. 2558); [organix@georgian.net](mailto:organix@georgian.net); <http://www.guelphorganicconf.org>.

January 23-26, 2003, "Practical Tools and Solutions for Sustaining Family Farms," 12th Annual Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group Conference, in Mobile, AL; contact Ryan Cohen, SSAWG, (404) 819-2122; [racfarm@earthlink.net](mailto:racfarm@earthlink.net); <http://www.attra.org/ssawg>.

\*January 24, 2003, "Institutional Markets: Supply Chain Development and Risk Management Strategies," a workshop on selling produce to hotels, food services, schools, and other institutions, co-sponsored by ISU's Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, will be held in Ames, IA; contact Sandra Trca-Black, Practical Farmers of Iowa, (515) 232-5662 ext. 101; or Leopold Center, [leocenter@iastate.edu](mailto:leocenter@iastate.edu).

January 24-25, 2003, "Bringing Profit Back to the Farm," Fifth Annual Midwest Value-Added Conference, in Eau Claire, WI; contact Heather Amundson, (715) 834-9672; heather.amundson@wi.usda.gov.

January 24-25, 2003, Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference, in Ames, IA; contact Robert Karp, PFI Executive Director, (515) 232-5661; rkarp@isunet.net.

January 25, 2003, 16th Annual NOFA/Massachusetts Winter Conference and Annual Meeting, in Barre, MA; contact Edwin Mcglew, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Massachusetts Chapter, (413) 247-9264; emcglew@pssci.umass.edu; <http://www.massorganic.org/conferences/winter.html>.

January 25, 2003, Kansas Winter Grazing Conference and trade show, hosted by Kansas Graziers Association, near Salina, KS; contact Mary Howell, Kansas Rural Center (785) 363-7306; marshallcofair@networksplus.net; <http://www.kansasruralcenter.org>.

\*January 25, 2003, 7th Annual Vermont Grazing Conference, in Randolph, VT; contact Center for Sustainable Agriculture, University of Vermont, (802) 656-5459, susagctr@zoo.uvm.edu.

January 25-26, 2003, Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York's 21st Annual Education Conference, in Albany, NY; contact Mayra Richter, NOFA-NY, (518) 734-5495; <http://www.nofany.org>.

January 26-27, 2003, Midwest Sustainable Agriculture Working Group Winter Meeting, in Nebraska City, NE; contact Dana Jackson, Land Stewardship Project, (651) 653-0618; danaj@umn.edu; or Midwest SAWG, msawg@aol.com.

January 27-29, 2003, "Planting the Seeds for Change," 2003 New York State Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference & Trade Show, including meetings and programs of the NYS Farmers' Direct Marketing Assoc., NYS Small-Scale Food Processors Assoc., and Federation of Farmers Markets of NYS, in Saratoga Springs, NY; contact Diane Eggert, NYS-FDMA, (315) 475-1101; dianne99@dreamscape.com; or Alison Clarke, NYS-SSFPA, (585) 244-2711; alisonclarke@mymailstation.com.

\*January 28-31, 2003, USCC's Annual Conference and Trade Show, in Las Vegas, NV; contact U.S. Composting Council, 200 Parkway Dr. Suite 310, Hauppauge, NY 11788; (631) 864-3796; admin@composting; <http://www.compostingcouncil.org>.

\*January 30, 2003, Food Alliance Annual Meeting; for location and details, contact The Food Alliance, 1829 NE Alberta, #5, Portland, OR 97211; (503) 493-1066; info@foodalliance.org.

January 30-31, 2003, "Education for a Sustainable and Secure Future," 3rd National Conference on Science, Policy, and the Environment, in Washington, DC; contact National Council for Science and the Environment, (202) 207-0007; conference@NCSEonline.org; <http://cnie.org/NCSEconference/2003conference>.

January 31-February 2, 2003, Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society 24th Annual Winter Conference, in Aberdeen, SD; contact Theresa Podoll, NPSAS, phone/fax (701) 883-4304; tpnpsas@drtel.net; <http://www.npsas.org>.

January 31-February 2, 2003, "Organic Vegetable Systems from Seed to Market," Sixth Annual Farmer-to-Farmer Workshop Series for Organic & Ecological Growers, in Ballston Spa, NY; contact Regional Farm & Food Project, (518) 427-6537; farmfood@capital.net; <http://www.capital.net/~farmfood/>.

January 31-February 2, 2003, "Building Sustainable Communities," Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group's 9th annual meeting and conference, in Moscow, ID; contact Jeff Schahczenski, WSAWG, (406) 494-8636; <http://www.westernsawg.org/new.htm>.

February 1, 2003, is the abstract submission deadline for papers for 2nd National Conference on Grazing Lands, hosted by Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, to be held December 7-10, 2003, in Nashville, TN; contact John W. Peterson, 2NCGL Program and Conference Manager, (703) 455-6886; [jwpeterson@erols.com](mailto:jwpeterson@erols.com); <http://www.glci.org/2NCGL.htm>.

February 2-4, 2003, "The Urban-Ag Interface and the Future of Agriculture," Association of Applied IPM Ecologists 2003 Annual Conference, in San Luis Obispo, CA; contact AAES, phone/fax (707) 265-9349; [director@aaie.net](mailto:director@aaie.net); <http://www.aaie.net>.

February 3, 2003, is the abstract submission deadline for poster presentations to "Sustainable Land Application Conference" on applying waste materials to soils, to be held January 4-8, 2004, in Orlando, FL; contact University of Florida/IFAS Office of Conferences & Institutes, P.O. Box 110750, Gainesville, FL 32611-0750; (352) 392-5930; <http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/landapp>.

February 3-10, 2003, Annual North American Farmers' Direct Marketing Association Conference, in Charlotte, NC; contact NAFDMA, 1-888-884-9270; [nafdma@map.com](mailto:nafdma@map.com); <http://www.nafdma.com>.

February 7-8, 2003, 9th Annual Kansas Sustainable Agriculture Round-up, co-sponsored by Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops, Kansas Center for Agricultural Resources and the Environment, and Kansas Rural Center; in Manhattan, KS; contact Jerry Jost, (785) 865-2555; [jjost@grapevine.net](mailto:jjost@grapevine.net); or Kansas Rural Center, (785) 873-3431; [ksrc@rainbowtel.net](mailto:ksrc@rainbowtel.net).

February 7-8, 2003, "Local Food Systems, Local Decisions: In Search of True Security," 12th Annual Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture Conference, in State College, PA; contact PASA, P.O. Box 419, Millheim, PA 16854-0419; (814) 349-9856; [info@pasafarming.org](mailto:info@pasafarming.org); <http://www.pasafarming.org>.

\*February 7-8, 2003, New Mexico Organic Farming and Marketing Expo, in Glorieta, NM; contact Joan Quinn, (505) 266-9849; [joan.quinn@state.nm.us](mailto:joan.quinn@state.nm.us).

February 9-11, 2003, "Conservation: Imagine the Future," National Association of Conservation Districts 57th Annual Meeting and Conservation Expo, in Orlando, FL; contact Trindal Stanke, (202) 547-6223; [Trindal-Stanke@nacdnet.org](mailto:Trindal-Stanke@nacdnet.org); <http://www.nacdnet.org/2003/expo/>.

February 10-11, 2003, "Going Organic" Conference and Trade Show, in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada; contact Doris Smallwood, Alberta Organic Association, #12 18104-102 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5H 1S7; 1-866-262-9907 or (780) 930-7051; [altaorg@telus.net](mailto:altaorg@telus.net).

\*February 13, 2003, Midwest Food Alliance Annual Meeting; for location and details, contact Jim Ennis, Midwest Food Alliance, (651) 265-3684; [ennis@foodchoices.org](mailto:ennis@foodchoices.org).

\*February 13-14, 2003, "Opportunities and Challenges of Organic Agriculture in the EU Accession Countries," held during Biofach 2003 in Nuremberg, Germany; contact Nuremberg Global Fairs GmbH, Messezentrum, D-90471 Nuremberg, Germany; phone +49 (0) 911.86 06-8699; [info@nuernbergglobalfairs.com](mailto:info@nuernbergglobalfairs.com).

\*February 13-16, 2003, Biofach 2003 World Organic Trade Fair, in Nuremberg, Germany; for information, <http://www.biofach.de/main/page.html>.

February 15, 2003, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont Annual Winter Conference; for location and details, contact NOFA-VT, P.O. Box 697, Richmond, VT 05477; (802) 434-4122; [info@nofavt.org](mailto:info@nofavt.org); <http://www.nofavt.org/>.

February 16-18, 2003, Wisconsin Grazing Conference will be held in Stevens Point, WI; contact Grassworks, 210 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403-5449; (715) 261-6009; <http://www.uwrf.edu/grazing>.

\*February 19-22, 2003, Mid-Atlantic Direct Marketing Conference, in Timonium, MD; contact Jo-Ann Weber, Maryland Direct Farm Market Association, (301) 405-2436; <http://www.madmc.com>.

February 20-21, 2003, USDA's 79th Agricultural Outlook Forum, in Arlington, VA; contact Office of the Chief Economist, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, (202) 720-3050; <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/agforum.htm>.

February 21, 2003, is the submission deadline for paper abstracts or session proposals for 2003 Joint Annual Meetings of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society (AFHVS) and Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS), to be held June 12-15, 2003, in Austin, TX; contact Alessandro Bonanno, Dept. of Sociology, Sam Houston State University, (936) 294-1488; [soc\\_aab@shsu.edu](mailto:soc_aab@shsu.edu); <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/rhaynes/afhvs/2003call.html>.

February 22, 2003, Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota's 12th Annual Conference, in Duluth, MN; contact Joel Rosen, (218) 389-3306; <http://www.sfa-mn.org/>.

February 28-March 1, 2003, 14th Annual Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference, along with Organic University on February 27, in LaCrosse, WI; contact Faye Jones, Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service, (715) 772-3153; [moses@wwt.net](mailto:moses@wwt.net); <http://www.mosesorganic.org>.

\*March 3-5, 2003, BioCycle West Coast Conference 2003 on composting, organics recycling, and bioenergy, in Los Angeles, CA; contact BioCycle, 419 State Ave., Emmaus, PA 18049; (610) 967-4135 ext. 21; [biocycle@jgpress.com](mailto:biocycle@jgpress.com); <http://www.biocycle.net>.

March 6-9, 2003, Natural Products Expo West, in Anaheim, CA; contact New Hope Natural Media, (866) 458-4935; [tradeshows@newhope.com](mailto:tradeshows@newhope.com); <http://www.expowest.com>.

\*March 8-9, 2003, Annual OEFFA Conference, in Johnstown, OH; contact Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association, P.O. Box 82234, Columbus, OH 43202; (614) 421-2022; [info@oeffa.org](mailto:info@oeffa.org); <http://www.oeffa.org>.

March 10-12, 2003, "Farming on the Edge: Finding the Balance," American Farmland Trust National Conference 2003, in Pacific Grove, CA; contact AFT, (202) 331-7300; [info@farmland.org](mailto:info@farmland.org); [http://www.farmland.org/conference\\_2003](http://www.farmland.org/conference_2003).

March 12-13, 2003, 3rd Annual New England Farmers' Direct Marketing Conference & Trade Show, in Boxborough, MA; contact Charlie Touchette, (413) 529-9100; [info@massfarmstands.com](mailto:info@massfarmstands.com).

March 13-15, 2003, "Atlantic Successes and Innovations," Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network's Annual Organic Conference and Trade Show, in Halifax, Nova Scotia; contact ACORN, 3101

Hwy 236, RR1, Kennetcook, NW B0N1P0 Canada; (902) 632-2523; [admin@acornorganic.org](mailto:admin@acornorganic.org);  
<http://www.acornorganic.org>.

\*March 20-23, 2003, "Ethics As a Dimension of Agrifood Policy," European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics' 4th EurSafe Conference, in Toulouse, France; <http://www.eursafe.org/conferences>.

\*March 21-22, 2003, "Passive Solar Greenhouse Workshop: Design, Construction, and Year-Round Production," in Spring Grove, PA; for course outline and details, contact Steve and Carol Moore, 1522 Lefever Lane, Spring Grove, PA 17362; (717) 225-2489; [sandcmoore@juno.com](mailto:sandcmoore@juno.com).

March 28-29, 2003, Great Lakes International Grazing Conference, in Battle Creek, MI; contact Bill Bivens, (517) 788-4292 ext. 1319; [bivens@msue.msu.edu](mailto:bivens@msue.msu.edu);  
<http://www.msue.msu.edu/jackson/GLGC.htm>. (NOTE date change, originally scheduled for February 10-11.)

March 31-April 1, 2003, Small Farm & Ranch Marketing Conference, organized by the Southwest Marketing Network, in Durango, CO; contact Pamela Roy, (505) 473-1004; [pamelaroy@aol.com](mailto:pamelaroy@aol.com); or [ladams@cybermesa.com](mailto:ladams@cybermesa.com).

\*April 26-30, 2003, Annual Meeting of the American Forage and Grassland Council, in Lafayette, LA; contact AFGC, 1-800-944-2342; [dtucker@io.com](mailto:dtucker@io.com); <http://www.afgc.org>.

April 27-May 2, 2003, 11th International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds, hosted by CSIRO Entomology, in Canberra, Australia; for information, <http://www.ento.csiro.au/weeds2003/index.html>.

\*May 3-4, 2003, "Heartland Celebration" of food, farming and healthy living in California's Central Valley, in Stevinson, CA; contact Ecological Farming Association, 406 Main St., Suite 313, Watsonville, CA 95076; (831) 763-2111; [info@eco-farm.org](mailto:info@eco-farm.org); <http://www.eco-farm.org>.

\*May 14-18, 2003, "All Things Organic" Conference and Trade Show, in Austin, TX; contact Organic Trade Association, P.O. Box 547, Greenfield, MA 01302; (413) 774-7511; [info@ota.com](mailto:info@ota.com);  
<http://www.ota.com>.

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This edition of ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURE NEWS compiles "Calendar" listings from previous issues and those received too late for inclusion in the corresponding hardcopy edition mailed to subscribers. To subscribe to the hardcopy edition, contact Suzanne DeMuth, AANews Editor, [wallacecenter@winrock.org](mailto: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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