



## NEWS BRIEFS

### House Panel Cuts FY 2005 Conservation, Rural Spending from Farm Bill Levels

The House Appropriations Committee passed a \$66 million agriculture spending bill for FY 2005 that funds conservation programs “at levels that exceed last year’s appropriations but do not meet targets set forth in the 2002 Farm Bill,” according to *E&E Daily* (June 24). The story cites an analysis by the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (SAC) showing the programs would be \$520 million (24 percent) below those spending targets—in effect, a doubling of cutbacks compared to last year’s figures. In percentage terms, the largest cuts are to the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Conservation Security Program, and Wetlands Reserve Program. The bill also makes large cuts in mandatory funding for rural development, renewable energy, and agricultural research; the value-added grants program is slashed by 61 percent, from \$40 million to just \$15.5 million. Details are available from SAC, (202) 547-5754 or [sac@msawg.org](mailto:sac@msawg.org).

### Projects Rely on Voluntary Approaches to Reduce Nutrient Pollutants in Mississippi River Basin

A range of projects relying on voluntary approaches by farmers to reduce nutrient releases are being tested in the Mississippi River watershed, according to the series “Limiting Dead Zones” in *Science News* (Part II, June 12). The Chicago-based Wetlands Initiative, for instance, is renewing or creating wetlands to soak up nitrate, as well as benefit fish and waterfowl. In Wisconsin, the Sand County Foundation is looking at strategies that use results-oriented goals instead of compliance, including controlled drainage technology, and crop diversification to restore year-round perennial cover and replace corn and soybeans. For more information, contact Doug Daigle of the Mississippi River Basin Alliance, [dougdaigle@mrba.org](mailto:dougdaigle@mrba.org); or visit [www.mrba.org](http://www.mrba.org). (Additional contacts and resources are online at [www.sciencenews.org/articles/20040605/bob9.asp](http://www.sciencenews.org/articles/20040605/bob9.asp).)

### Landmark Treaties on ‘Dirty Dozen’ Chemicals, Crop Genetic Resources Become International Law

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), which became law on May 17, will ban or severely restrict 12 pesticides and industrial pollutants. The so-called ‘dirty dozen’ are aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, furans, heptachlor, hexachlorobenzene, mirex, PCBs, and toxaphene (May 17, [www.pops.int](http://www.pops.int)). In May 2005, governments from 59 nations will begin evaluating additional chemicals for possible control; brominated flame retardants and others are targeted (Reuters, May 17). Congress has yet to pass legislation ratifying the treaty, due in part to “controversial language pushed by the Bush Administration” (*C&E News*, May 24). A separate pact, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, took effect on June 29 ([www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/itpgr.htm](http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/itpgr.htm)). The U.N.-backed agreement governs conservation of gene bank and farmers’ materials, and sets a unique, multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing, including information exchange and commercial profits. The treaty helps developing nations support their farmers’ rights to save seeds, according to the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, which urges the U.S. to ratify the treaty (June 28, [www.iatp.org](http://www.iatp.org)).

### Latest USDA Census Data Reveals Agricultural Diversity and Trends

The 2002 Census of Agriculture was released on June 3 by USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service ([www.nass.usda.gov/census/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/)). According to a range of news stories that followed the release, the survey shows the following national figures and trends since 1997: The numbers of the largest farms (over \$500,000 in annual sales) rose from 4.7 percent to 5.7 percent, and the very smallest farms (under \$2,500) increased from 13 percent to 20 percent. Mid-sized farms (500–1,000 acres) fell by 18,000. Consolidation was most pronounced in the hog industry, where operations declined by 37 percent to about 79,000. The average age of principal operator rose from 54 years to 55.3, an increase typical of prior censuses. Women-run operations gained by 13 percent, and Latino-run, by 51 percent, while total farm and ranch numbers fell by 4 percent (2.22 to 2.13 million). Corporate farm numbers dropped by 18 percent, reversing an upward trend since 1974. Direct sales to consumers increased by 37 percent to \$812 million, and organic sales reached nearly \$393 million (0.6 percent of the agricultural market).

**Leading Climate Scientists Urge Immediate U.S. Action on Global Warming**

Ten leading U.S. climate scientists, in a June 15 meeting, laid out in stark terms how rising levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are affecting the world's weather, sea level, and ecological systems, and urged strong, immediate actions to curb emissions and avoid far greater changes by the century's end. "We are in the middle of a large, uncontrolled experiment on the only planet we have," said Donald Kennedy, *Science* journal's editor-in-chief (*C&E News*, June 28). Carbon dioxide levels are 30 percent above pre-industrial levels, with a 2.5 to 10.4 degree temperature rise likely by 2100. They called for a "major shift to cleaner fuel technologies" and "urged US policymakers and the public not to get hung up on the uncertainties that still surrounded climate science ... as an excuse for inaction" (*BBC News*, June 15, <http://newsvote.bbc.co.uk>).

**Split Decision on GM Seed Favors Monsanto's Patent over Canadian Farmer, Puzzles Legal Experts**

In a 'test case' of Canada's approach to patenting GM organisms, the Supreme Court ruled May 21 that farmer Percy Schmeiser infringed on Monsanto's patent rights by illegally growing its GM canola seed, which he claims blew onto his property. The tight 5-4 decision "marks the highest court ruling in any country" on patent protection of GM seeds and plants, and "sets a clear precedent in favor of biotech developers," *Greenwire* (May 24) wrote. Yet the verdict also "left many experts puzzled" (*Science*, May 28) since it contrasts with a prior decision limiting patents on higher life forms. Four of the 9 judges dissented, because of this conflict, and thus sided with arguments from the Council of Canadians, Sierra Club of Canada, and National Farmers Union. Some legal experts said a pending class action case by organic farmers against Monsanto, for polluting their fields with GM pollen, might be strengthened by the ruling (*Washington Post*, May 22).

**Monsanto Withdraws GM Wheat Applications, Except to Food and Drug Administration**

Monsanto has formally withdrawn applications for approval of its herbicide-resistant GM wheat in the U.S. and six other nations, except to the Food and Drug Administration. The firm will proceed with FDA approval to "establish the safety for food and feed consumption" (*Greenwire*, June 21), though USDA and EPA approval would be needed also for U.S. sales. Monsanto hopes the EU's boycott of biotech crops will be ruled illegal in the World Trade Organization, allowing the firm to eventually "work with regulators to open doors for GM wheat" (*Guardian*, May 11, [www.guardian.co.uk/gmdebate](http://www.guardian.co.uk/gmdebate)). In May, Monsanto said it would drop efforts to commercialize its 'Roundup Ready' wheat for the next 4-8 years, citing a "less attractive" market compared to other biotech crops with greater appeal to farmers (and shareholders), or potentially to consumers. The crop has faced strong resistance from farmer and grain industry groups in the U.S. and Canada over concerns including loss of export markets, segregation from non-GM wheat, and herbicide resistance.

**USDA To Disclose More Information on Environmental Impacts of 'Biopharm' Crops**

"Responding to criticism that a controversial farming practice is shrouded in secrecy," USDA said it would disclose more information on 'biopharm' crops engineered to make pharmaceuticals, the *New York Times* (June 2) reported. The new policy will allow public comment before permits are issued for field trials deemed large (or risky) enough to require a formal environmental assessment. The agency will also use its website to post its analyses of environmental impacts and risks of crops being grown in field trials; as an official told the *Times*, "we want to be more transparent in advance of this technology really scaling up." According to the Center for Science in the Public Interest, USDA received 16 new applications for biopharm permits in the last 12 months, after a hiatus following the Prodigene contamination incident in 2002. "Sowing Secrecy: The Biotech Industry, USDA, and America's Secret Pharm Belt" is online at [www.cspinet.org](http://www.cspinet.org).

**Farm-Level Study in Minnesota Yields Mixed Results for Microbes on Organic Produce**

A study comparing organic and conventionally grown produce from Minnesota farms found that organic produce was virtually free of pathogenic bacteria, but more likely to have fecal contamination from manure used as fertilizer (May 19, [www.cidrap.umn.edu](http://www.cidrap.umn.edu)). Fresh vegetables and fruits from certified organic farms—which must follow federal rules to eliminate pathogens in manure used as fertilizer—were significantly less likely to have microbes indicating fecal contamination, as compared to noncertified organic farms. The results, reported in *Journal of Food Protection* (May 2004), do not support claims in some media stories that organic produce poses a greater risk of foodborne illness, the authors concluded, and "suggest that organic certification might further reduce the likelihood of fecal contamination in organic produce." To request a reprint, write to co-author Francisco Diez-Gonzalez, [fdiez@umn.edu](mailto:fdiez@umn.edu).

## FARM/RANCH MANAGEMENT AND SYSTEMS

■ **Bug vs. Bug: Collection of Articles on Biocontrol of Plant Pests** (66 pgs), 38 articles on greenhouse pest management first published in 2000–2003 *HortReport*, from Pennsylvania Integrated Pest Management Program, <http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/pdf/bugvbug.pdf>; or contact author Cindy Thomas, (717) 705-5857.

■ **Directory of Student Farms** (June 2004 update), Web-based guide to on-campus farms in U.S. featuring small-scale and organic farming (and some with public programs), [www.newfarm.org/features/0104/studentfarms/directory.shtml](http://www.newfarm.org/features/0104/studentfarms/directory.shtml); or contact Greg Bowman, Online Editor/NewFarm.org, [greg.bowman@rodaleinst.org](mailto:greg.bowman@rodaleinst.org).

■ **Farming with the Wind II: Wind Erosion and Air Quality Control on the Columbia River Plateau and Columbia Basin** (96 pgs, XB1042), on progress from Columbia Plateau PM10 Project, 11-yr initiative on best management practices to reduce particulate matter pollution from dryland farming; <http://cru84.cahe.wsu.edu/cgi-bin/pubs/XB1042.html>; print copy is free from Bulletin Office, Washington State Univ. Extension, (509) 335-2857.

■ **Healing the Land through Multi-Species Grazing** (video, \$25; DVD, \$30), on grazing as weed control tool, from 2-year Western SARE project; contact Bulletin Office, WSU Extension (Pullman), (509) 335-2857; for project details, contact Donald Nelson, [nelsond@wsu.edu](mailto:nelsond@wsu.edu).

■ **High-Tunnel Tomato Production** (28-pg booklet, M170) on growing tomatoes and other intercropped vegetables year-round in unheated hoop houses, \$10 from University of Missouri Extension, (573) 882-7216; [extpubs@missouri.edu](mailto:extpubs@missouri.edu).

■ **Improving Whole Farm Planning through Better Decision-Making**, case studies by Northeast educators working with new and established farmers, supported by Northeast SARE program and Growing New Farmers project, [www.holisticmanagement.org/oll\\_wholefarm.cfm](http://www.holisticmanagement.org/oll_wholefarm.cfm); print copy is \$10 from Savory Center, (505)

842-5252; [savorycenter@holisticmanagement.org](mailto:savorycenter@holisticmanagement.org).

■ **LEISA Magazine**, CD-ROM covering 1984–2003 with full-text of nearly 1,000 articles (and indexes) on 20 years of field experience, 10 Euros (or free to developing countries) from ILEIA (Centre for Information on Low External Input and Sustainable Agriculture, Netherlands), [subscriptions@ileia.nl](mailto:subscriptions@ileia.nl); [www.leisa.info](http://www.leisa.info).

■ **Maine Grass Farmers Network**, in development by Maine Organic Farming and Gardening Association, Maine Cooperative Extension, and Unity Barnraisers, to include Maine regional workshops, directory of farmers and educators, farm tours, and annual conference; for more information, contact Diane Schivera, MOFGA, (207) 568-4142; [dianes@mofga.org](mailto:dianes@mofga.org).

■ **National Small Farm Conference 2003 Audiotapes** on production and marketing topics for small-scale and organic farms; for list of seminar and short course titles and prices, contact *Small Farm Today* magazine, (573) 687-3525; [smallfarm@socket.net](mailto:smallfarm@socket.net).

■ **North American Farming Systems Association**, a chapter of International Farming Systems Association, with focus on farmer-participatory, interdisciplinary agri-food systems research and extension, is being revitalized; contact (413) 323-4531; [sejohnson@smallfarm.org](mailto:sejohnson@smallfarm.org); also [www.fao.org/farmingsystems](http://www.fao.org/farmingsystems).

■ **Opportunities in Agriculture: Diversifying Cropping Systems**, 20-pg bulletin on ecological and economic benefits, [www.sare.org/publications/diversify/diversify.pdf](http://www.sare.org/publications/diversify/diversify.pdf); print copy (and full list of publications) is free from Sustainable Agriculture Network, (301) 504-5236; [san\\_assoc@sare.org](mailto:san_assoc@sare.org).

■ **Simply Sustainable: People and Projects Sustaining Western Agriculture**, 21-pg full-color booklet featuring Western SARE people and grant projects supporting sustainable agriculture and communities, <http://wsare.usu.edu/subpages/contacts.cfm>; print copies are free from WSARE, (435) 797-2257; [wsare@mendel.usu.edu](mailto:wsare@mendel.usu.edu).

## ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY

■ **Agrarian Dreams: The Paradox of Organic Farming in California**, 264-pg book based on Ph.D. dissertation by Julie Guthman of University of California–Santa Cruz, \$21.95, to be published August 2004 by Berkeley Press; contact Customer Service, (609) 883-1759; [www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/10112.html](http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/10112.html); or write to [jguthman@uclink.berkeley.edu](mailto:jguthman@uclink.berkeley.edu).

■ **Canadian Organic Growers 2004 Directory of Organics in Canada**, searchable database of certified producers, processors, and certification bodies, [www.cogdir.ca/](http://www.cogdir.ca/); or write to [info@cogdir.ca](mailto:info@cogdir.ca); regarding free or paid listings, contact COG National Office, 323 Chapel St., Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 7Z2 Canada; (613) 216-0741.

■ **Center for Organic Agriculture, University of Florida**, new public–private partnership with support from Southern Region SARE program, <http://organic.ifas.ufl.edu>; or contact co-director Mickie Swisher, IFAS/University of Florida, (352) 392-2202 ext.

256; [meswisher@mail.ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:meswisher@mail.ifas.ufl.edu); or co-director Rose Koenig, [rosiesfarm@mindspring.com](mailto:rosiesfarm@mindspring.com).

■ **CT NOFA Farm, Food & Land Care Guide 2004** (19 pgs), directory of certified organic/sustainable growers, organic land care professionals, and supporting businesses, [www.ctnofa.org/docs/2004CTOrganicFarms.pdf](http://www.ctnofa.org/docs/2004CTOrganicFarms.pdf); or contact Northeast Organic Farming Association/Connecticut, (203) 888-5146; [ctnofa@ctnofa.org](mailto:ctnofa@ctnofa.org).

■ **Ecological and Organic Management Workshop Proceedings** (28 pgs), summaries on insect and weed control, soil biology, breeding organic vegetables, and education, from February 2004 conference in Wilsonville, Oregon, <http://csanr.wsu.edu/InfoSources/WilsonvilleProceedings.pdf>; print copy is \$5 from Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, Washington State University (Puyallup), (253) 445-4626; [murrayc@wsu.edu](mailto:murrayc@wsu.edu).

# RESOURCES

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Alternative  
Agriculture NEWS

## ■ European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming

adopted June 10 by European Commission, including 21-point action plan, press release, and background information, [http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/qual/organic/plan/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/agriculture/qual/organic/plan/index_en.htm).

■ **Guelph Organic Conference Proceedings** (68 pgs) from January 2004 conference in Ontario, Canada, US\$10 or CDN\$10 from Organic Conference, Box 116, Collingwood, ON, L9Y3Z4 Canada; [organix@georgian.net](mailto:organix@georgian.net); <http://www.guelphorganicconf.ca>.

■ **Local and Organic: Bringing Maryland Organics from Farm to Table**, 41-pg report including survey analysis and case studies, [www.chesapeakefields.com](http://www.chesapeakefields.com); or contact Chesapeake Fields Institute, (410) 810-2081; [cfi@chesapeakefields.com](mailto:cfi@chesapeakefields.com).

■ **Minimizing Pesticide Exposure through the Consumption of Organic Foods** (63 pgs) by Charles Benbrook, first 'State of Science Review' quantifying benefits of organic agriculture, linked from [www.organiccenter.org](http://www.organiccenter.org); or contact Organic Center for Education & Promotion, (877) 773-1779; [info@organic-center.org](mailto:info@organic-center.org).

■ **Montana Organic Association**, new nonprofit membership group for producers, processors, and retailers; contact Jill Davies, MOA Coordinador, (406) 642-3601; [rivercare@blackfoot.net](mailto:rivercare@blackfoot.net).

■ **Non-GMO Sourcebook 2004**, annual directory of 400+ organic and non-GMO suppliers and service providers, \$24.95 plus S/H; contact Ken Roseboro, (641) 472-1491; [ken@non-gmosource.com](mailto:ken@non-gmosource.com); [www.non-gmosource.com](http://www.non-gmosource.com).

■ **Organic Eprints**, an international open-access archive of full-text research papers on organic agriculture, in German or English, from Danish Research Centre for Organic Farming (DARCOF) and Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL, Germany), [www.orgprints.org](http://www.orgprints.org); or contact Administrator, Organic Eprints Database (DARCOF), [hugo.alroe@agrsci.dk](mailto:hugo.alroe@agrsci.dk).

■ **Organic Farming and Measures of European Agricultural Policy** (270 pgs), Volume 11 in 'Organic Farming in Europe: Economics and Policy' series, 28 Euro from University of Hohenheim, phone +49 (0)711 459 3523; [ofeurope@uni-hohenheim.de](mailto:ofeurope@uni-hohenheim.de); [www.uni-hohenheim.de/~i410a/ofeurope](http://www.uni-hohenheim.de/~i410a/ofeurope).

■ **Organic Fiber Processing Standards** developed by Organic Trade Association and industry members; for information including Materials List and licensing, contact OTA, (413) 774-7511; [dgagnon@ota.com](mailto:dgagnon@ota.com); [www.ota.com/standards/fiberstandards.html](http://www.ota.com/standards/fiberstandards.html).

■ **Organic Food: Understanding the Consumer and Increasing Sales**, 45-pg market research report commissioned by UK's Soil Association, [www.organic.aber.ac.uk/library/TNS2004eng.pdf](http://www.organic.aber.ac.uk/library/TNS2004eng.pdf); or contact Neil Pearson, Organic Centre Wales/University of Wales, phone 01970 621679; [npp@aber.ac.uk](mailto:npp@aber.ac.uk) or [organic@aber.ac.uk](mailto:organic@aber.ac.uk).

■ **Organic Greens** (covering varietal selection to marketing) is 24-pg supplement in Summer 2004 issue of *The Natural Farmer*; entire 44-pg issue is \$3.00 from Northeast Organic Farming Association, (978) 355-2853; [nofa@nofamass.org](mailto:nofa@nofamass.org).

■ **Organic Handbook Series** of guides to vegetable crop health, whole farm planning, soil resilience and health, composting, organic marketing and community relations, and more, forthcoming in 2004–2005 from Northeast Organic Farming Assoc. state chapters or NOFA Interstate Council, linked from [www.nofa.org](http://www.nofa.org); for details, contact Bill Duesing, NOFA Interstate Council, (203) 888-5146.

■ **Organic meat-marketing standards and labels** (for grass-fed, hormone-free, and others), in development by USDA; for update on standards-related efforts by Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, contact Ann Wright, (202) 547-5754; or Deirdre Birmingham, Midwest Organic and Sustainable Educ. Service, [deirdreb@mindspring.com](mailto:deirdreb@mindspring.com).

■ **Organic Retailers Association**, new international umbrella organization launched formally in February 2004, [www.o-r-a.org](http://www.o-r-a.org); or contact Tom Vaclavik, ORA President, [vaclavik@o-r-a.org](mailto:vaclavik@o-r-a.org).

■ **Organic Vegetable Production** (NRAES-165, 162 pgs), proceedings from January 2003 conference, including focus on soil and nutrition, weed management, and insect/disease management, \$28 plus S/H from NRAES, (607) 255-7654; [nraes@cornell.edu](mailto:nraes@cornell.edu).

■ **Remedies for Health Problems of the Organic Laying Flock: A Compendium and Workbook of Management, Nutritional, Herbal, and Homeopathic Remedies**, 60-pg manual, [www.kingbirdfarm.com/Layerhealthcompendium.pdf](http://www.kingbirdfarm.com/Layerhealthcompendium.pdf); or contact Kingbird Farm, [karma@kingbirdfarm.com](mailto:karma@kingbirdfarm.com).

■ **Upper Midwest Organic Tree Fruit Growers Association** launched Spring 2004; for programs and events, contact Deirdre Birmingham, (608) 873-8224, [deirdreb@mindspring.com](mailto:deirdreb@mindspring.com).

■ **The World of Organic Agriculture: Statistics & Emerging Trends 2004** (6th edition, 167 pgs), from Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and IFOAM, [www.soel.de/inhalte/publikationen/s/s\\_74.pdf](http://www.soel.de/inhalte/publikationen/s/s_74.pdf); or contact FiBL, [info.Deutschland@fibl.org](mailto:info.Deutschland@fibl.org).

## ALTERNATIVE MARKETING AND FOOD SYSTEMS

■ **'Community Food Systems' Technical Assistance Program**, free consulting service launched March 2004 for groups working in 13-state Southern region, [www.ssawg.org/technical-assistance.html](http://www.ssawg.org/technical-assistance.html), or contact Southern SAWG, (479) 587-0888; [ssfarm@lynks.com](mailto:ssfarm@lynks.com).

■ **Community Supported Agriculture in the Mid-Atlantic Region: Results of a Shareholder Survey and Farmer Interviews** (52 pgs) from collaborative Small Farm Success Project

(including Wallace Center), [www.smallfarmsuccess.info](http://www.smallfarmsuccess.info); for print copy, contact Future Harvest-CASA, (410) 604-2681; [fhcasa@verizon.net](mailto:fhcasa@verizon.net); or author Lydia Oberholtzer, [loberholtzer@hotmail.com](mailto:loberholtzer@hotmail.com).

■ **Consumer Perceptions of Pasture-Raised Beef and Dairy Products: An Internet Consumer Study** (43 pgs), [www.leopold.iastate.edu/pubs/staff/pasture/pasture.htm](http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/pubs/staff/pasture/pasture.htm); or contact Rich Pirog, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, (515) 294-1854.

## ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- **Climate Friendly Farming Research and Demonstration Project**, 2-pg research briefs on carbon sequestration, economics, and related topics, <http://cff.wsu.edu>; or contact Chad Kruger, CSANR, Washington State University, (509) 663-8181 ext. 235.
- **Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)**, national assessment to quantify environmental benefits and effects of 2002 Farm Bill programs, from USDA-NRCS, Farm Service Agency, and partners; [www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/NRI/ceap](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/NRI/ceap); or contact Carl Myers, (202) 205-5513; [carl.f.myers@usda.gov](mailto:carl.f.myers@usda.gov).
- **Conservation Security Program: Self-Assessment Workbook** (56 pgs, PA-1770) to determine FY 2004 eligibility, plus watershed map, sign-up rules, and related information from USDA-NRCS, linked from [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp); CD version of workbook is available from local NRCS offices (for contacts, [http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndCGI.exe/oip\\_public/USA\\_map](http://offices.usda.gov/scripts/ndCGI.exe/oip_public/USA_map)).
- **Environmental Compliance in U.S. Agricultural Policy: Past Performance and Future Potential (AER-832)**, 52-pg report on incentives approach to reduce soil erosion and manage nutrient runoff, [www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/aer832/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/aer832/); for print copy availability, contact USDA-ERS Info. Center, (202) 694-5050.
- **Farmland Preservation** (4 pgs) from November 2003 conference, [www.farmfoundation.org](http://www.farmfoundation.org); or (630) 571-9393; related report, "What the Public Values about Farm and Ranch Land: Workshop Summary Proceedings" will be available from Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development/Penn State Univ., (814) 863-4656.
- **Fighting Global Warming at the Farmers' Market: The Role of Local Food Systems in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions** (13 pgs), [www.foodshare.net/resource/files/ACF230.pdf](http://www.foodshare.net/resource/files/ACF230.pdf); or contact FoodShare Education & Research Office (Toronto, Ontario), (416) 392-6653; [info@foodshare.net](mailto:info@foodshare.net).
- **First Soil Action Plan for England: 2004-2006** (37 pgs, May 2004), setting out 3-year plan on soils policy with 52 action items, from UK's Dept. for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), linked from [www.defra.gov.uk/environment/land/soil/action\\_plan.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/land/soil/action_plan.htm); for print copy, contact Defra Publications, Admail 6000, London SW1A 2XX, Great Britain; phone 08459 556000.
- **Getting in Step: A Guide for Conducting Watershed Outreach Campaigns** (136 pgs, EPA 841-B-03-002), [www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/outreach/documents/getnstep.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/outreach/documents/getnstep.pdf), with companion 30-minute video on successful outreach campaigns (EPA 841-B-03-

## CONCENTRATION, COMPETITION

- **Broken Limbs: Apples, Agriculture, and the New American Farmer**, award-winning 57-minute VHS video on plight of apple growers in globalized economy, solutions for independent growers; for purchase or rental, contact Bullfrog Films, PO Box 149, Oley, PA 19547; (610) 779-8226; [info@bullfrogfilms.com](mailto:info@bullfrogfilms.com).

001); each is free from National Service Center for Environmental Publications, 1-800-490-9198.

- **Iowa Renewable Energy & Agricultural Conference**, selected presentations from November 2003 conference in Des Moines, Iowa, organized by Iowa Environmental Council, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, and others, [www.ef.org/umenergy.cfm](http://www.ef.org/umenergy.cfm); CD version is free from Energy Foundation, (415) 561-6700.

- **Nebraska's Water: Perceptions and Priorities 2004**, 9th annual Nebraska Rural Poll results (24 pgs), <http://cari.unl.edu/ruralpoll/water.pdf>; or contact Center for Applied Rural Innovation, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, (402) 472-1772.

- **Risk, Government Programs, and the Environment** (59 pgs, TB1908), technical bulletin on how farmers' risk management influences production decisions and environmental quality, from USDA Economic Research Service, [www.ers.usda.gov/publications/tb1908/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/tb1908/); for availability of print copy, contact USDA-ERS Information Center, (202) 694-5050.

- **Soil Biology and Land Management** (20 pgs, Technical Note #4), follow-up to *Soil Biology Primer*, from USDA-NRCS Soil Quality Institute, [http://soils.usda.gov/sqi/soil\\_quality/soil\\_biology/index.html](http://soils.usda.gov/sqi/soil_quality/soil_biology/index.html); or contact [alewand@soils.umn.edu](mailto:alewand@soils.umn.edu).

- **Soils—The Final Frontier**, special section of news, viewpoints, and reviews on science and management, in *Science* journal (Vol. 304, June 11, 2004), for sale at newsstands; table of contents is online at [www.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencemag.org) (with full access for subscribers).

- **A Synthesis of Potential Climate Change Impacts on the U.S.** (56 pgs), a synthesis from prior Pew Center reports on effects on natural systems and society (including agriculture), [www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-in-depth/all\\_reports/](http://www.pewclimate.org/global-warming-in-depth/all_reports/); print copy is free from Pew Center on Global Climate Change, 2101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 550, Arlington, VA 22201; (703) 516-4146.

- **Threatening Iowa's Future: Iowa's Failure to Implement and Enforce the Clean Water Act for Livestock Operations** (74 pgs), [www.environmentalintegrity.org/pub194.cfm](http://www.environmentalintegrity.org/pub194.cfm); for print availability, contact Environmental Integrity Project, (202) 296-8800.

- **Water Quality in the Nation's Streams and Aquifers: Overview of Selected Findings, 1991-2001**, 28-pg summary report (Circ. 1265, May 2004), plus separate updates on 15 major river basins/aquifers, [http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/nawqa\\_sumr.html](http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/nawqa_sumr.html); print copies are free (plus S/H) from NAWQA, 1-888-275-8747.

- **Captive Supply Reform Act** to restore market competition and fair prices in livestock markets, sponsored in U.S. Congress by Rep. Earl Pomeroy (D-ND) and Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY) and supported by Western Organization of Resource Councils alliance, [www.worc.org/issues/famfarms.html#](http://www.worc.org/issues/famfarms.html#); or contact WORC, (406) 252-9672; [billings@worc.org](mailto:billings@worc.org).

■ **Farm Program Payments: USDA Needs to Strengthen Regulations and Oversight to Better Ensure Recipients Do Not Circumvent Payment Limitations** (April 2004, 69 pgs, GAO-04-407), [www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAI-04-407](http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAI-04-407); single print copy is free from U.S. General Accounting Office, (202) 512-6000.

■ **Guidelines to counter agricultural concentration trends** adopted by International Federation of Agricultural Producers, June 4 news release, [www.ifap.org/wfc04/pressconcentration.html](http://www.ifap.org/wfc04/pressconcentration.html); or contact Julie Emond, Communications Coordinator, IFAP, [Julie.emond@ifap.org](mailto:Julie.emond@ifap.org); or Laura Johnston, National Farmers Union (U.S.), (202) 314-3104.

■ **Problems of Plenty: The American Farmer in the Twentieth Century**, 208-pg book by historian R. Douglas Hurt, from publish-

er Ivan R. Dee, is \$13.95 from book sellers, or contact Ivan R. Dee, (312) 787-6262, [elephant@ivanrdee.com](mailto:elephant@ivanrdee.com).

■ **Production Contracts** (4 pgs, Issue Report No. 2), from September 2003 conference, "Truth or Consequences: Future of Contracts in Agriculture," linked from [www.farmfoundation.org/ruralcommunity.htm](http://www.farmfoundation.org/ruralcommunity.htm); or contact Farm Foundation, 1211 West 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL 60523; (630) 571-9393.

■ **Ripe for Change: Rethinking California's Food Economy**, 126-pg report on impacts of globalization on state's agriculture and actions to support local agriculture, \$12 (or report summary, \$2) plus S/H from International Society for Ecology and Culture, (510) 548-4915; [california@isec.org.uk](mailto:california@isec.org.uk); [www.isec.org.uk](http://www.isec.org.uk).

## BIOTECHNOLOGY, GENETIC RESOURCES

■ **Agricultural Biotechnology: Meeting the Needs of the Poor?** (228 pgs), May 2004 edition of "State of Food and Agriculture 2003-2004" from U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, with focus on "transgenic crops and their impact on poor people in poor countries," [www.fao.org/docrep/006/y5160e/y5160e00.htm](http://www.fao.org/docrep/006/y5160e/y5160e00.htm); print copy is \$65 from United Nations Publications, (212) 963-8302; [publications@un.org](mailto:publications@un.org). An open letter criticizing the report, signed by over 650 civil society organizations, is available from GRAIN (Genetic Resources Action Intl.), [www.grain.org/front/?id=24](http://www.grain.org/front/?id=24), with June 16 response from FAO's director-general Jacques Diouf; or contact GRAIN (Barcelona, Spain), [grain@grain.org](mailto:grain@grain.org).

■ **A Conservation Breeding Handbook** (146 pgs, 2004 reprint), \$15.95 plus \$2 S/H from American Livestock Breeds Conservancy, (919) 542-5704; [albc@albc-usa.org](mailto:albc@albc-usa.org).

■ **FAO Statement on Loss of Domestic Breeds**, on using on-farm conservation and management of locally adapted livestock breeds to address genetic erosion, [www.fao.org/english/newsroom](http://www.fao.org/english/newsroom); regarding contribution by American Livestock Breeds Conservancy to FAO's upcoming "State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources" report and U.S.-Canadian collaboration, contact Don Bixby, ALBC Technical Program Director, (919) 542-5704.

■ **Feeding the World: A Look at Biotechnology & World Hunger**, 35-pg overview of views on role of transgenic crops in meeting food needs for subsistence populations, <http://pewagbiotech.org/resources/issuebriefs/feedtheworld.pdf>; for print availability, contact Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology, (202) 347-9044 ext. 225.

■ **Genetically Engineered Crops and Foods: Worldwide Regulation and Prohibition** (international inventory, May 2004 update, 12 pgs), [www.centerforfoodsafety.org/pubs/GEPolicyMapCharts5.14.2004.pdf](http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/pubs/GEPolicyMapCharts5.14.2004.pdf), also global map prepared jointly with International Forum for Globalization, [www.ifg.org/programs/IFA/ifa.htm](http://www.ifg.org/programs/IFA/ifa.htm) (or \$4 for print copy, 27 by 19 inches); contact Center for Food Safety, (202) 547-9359; [office@centerforfoodsafety.org](mailto:office@centerforfoodsafety.org).

■ **Heritage Turkeys in North America: The ALBC 2003 Heritage Turkey Census** (10 pgs) is \$5, and **Counting Our Chickens: Identifying Breeds in Danger of Extinction** (52 pgs) is \$12 (nonmember fees, plus S/H) from ALBC, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312; [albc@albc-usa.org](mailto:albc@albc-usa.org).

■ **2003 Legislative Activity Related to Agricultural Biotech**, analysis of state legislation with factsheet and updated database, <http://pewagbiotech.org/newsroom/releases/051704.php3>; or contact Pew Initiative on Food and Biotechnology, 1331 H Street, NW, #900, Washington, DC 20005.

■ **Living modified organisms**, new FAO guidelines for risk assessment, "Pest Risk Analysis for Quarantine Pests, including Analysis of Environmental Risks and Living Modified Organisms" (41 pgs, ISPM No. 11) and June 1 news release, [www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2004/43684/](http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2004/43684/); or contact Erwin Northoff, Information Officer, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, phone (+39) 06 5705 3105; [erwin.northoff@fao.org](mailto:erwin.northoff@fao.org).

■ **Seed Availability and Competition Act of 2004**, bill introduced in U.S. Congress (June 24) by Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), to decriminalize act of saving patented seed through technology fee to USDA, endorsed by American Corn Growers Association, (202) 835-0330, [www.acga.org/news/](http://www.acga.org/news/) (July 9); and National Farmers Union (U.S.), (202) 314-3104, [www.nfu.org/newsroom\\_news\\_release.cfm?id=1215](http://www.nfu.org/newsroom_news_release.cfm?id=1215) (June 24).

■ **'Seeds and Breeds' reports from national summit** held September 2003, including working paper, "Ownership and Legal and Public Policy Frameworks for Reinvigorating a Federal Public Plant and Animal Breeding System," [www.cfra.org/resources/seed\\_breed\\_paper.htm](http://www.cfra.org/resources/seed_breed_paper.htm) (or contact Center for Rural Affairs, PO Box 136, Lyons, NE 68038; (402) 846-5428, [info@cfra.org](mailto:info@cfra.org)); and conference proceedings (200 pgs), \$25 from RAFI-USA, (919) 542-1396; [info@rafi-usa.org](mailto:info@rafi-usa.org). To be added to 'Seeds and Breeds' email list, contact Kim Leval, (541) 687-1490, [kimleval@qwest.net](mailto:kimleval@qwest.net).

## WALLACE CENTER/WINROCK NEWS

### "Alternative Agriculture News" Comes to Close with This Final Issue

*Alternative Agriculture News* comes to the end of its 22-year run with this final June/July issue (the 266th!). The newsletter was launched in March 1983 by the Wallace Center's forerunner, the Institute for Alternative Agriculture, to serve the growing number of individuals interested in organic production and research, pesticide regulation, conservation policy, integrated farming systems, and related issues. Along the way, the newsletter also reported on work of the Institute (and its successors, the Wallace Institute and the Wallace Center), including its annual symposia, policy studies program, advocacy work on Capitol Hill, and a variety of other collaborative efforts. In mid-2002, with the retirement of Garth Youngberg, the newsletter's founding publisher, Suzanne DeMuth and Kate Clancy took over from him and Lani Sinclair, AAN's writer for many years.

Kate and Suzanne will be leaving the Wallace Center in summer 2004 due to revenue shortfalls. Jon Winsten remains at the Center continuing his work on incentive mechanisms and locally led solutions for improving agri-environmental performance, and sustainable livestock production systems. (He can be reached at [jwinsten@winrock.org](mailto:jwinsten@winrock.org).) For information on the current work and future course of the Wallace Center, contact Hunt Hobbs, managing director of Winrock's Agriculture unit, [hhobbs@winrock.org](mailto:hhobbs@winrock.org).

### Survey Examines Alternative Marketing Needs of Farmers and Ranchers in Four Corners States

A report on the needs of farmers and ranchers for alternative marketing assistance was released in June by the Southwest Marketing Network, a collaborative project of several groups working in the region. The study used a survey of 'service providers'—including Extension and government staff, nonprofits, producer groups, farmers' market organizers, and tribal groups—to assess the information and training needs of small-scale and minority producers in the Four Corners states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. It found the most pressing needs to be finding markets, setting prices, product diversification, and community supported agriculture. A number of areas in which producers (as well as service providers) need more assistance were identified, as well as barriers that prevent them from obtaining the assistance they need. Kate Clancy and Lydia Oberholtzer served on the SWMN's steering committee, and Lydia (now with USDA's Economic Research Service) was the report's lead author. "Agricultural Marketing in the U.S. Southwest: Information and Training Needs of Small-Scale Producers and Service Organizations" is online at [www.swmarketing.ncat.org](http://www.swmarketing.ncat.org); for a print copy, contact National Center for Appropriate Technology/ATTRA, 1-800-346-9140 or [debbier@ncat.org](mailto:debbier@ncat.org).

### Journal Becomes "Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems" Starting 2004

In 2004 with Volume 19, CABI Publishing introduced *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*, formerly known as the *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture* (AJAA). The journal publishes "original research and review articles on the economic, ecological and environmental impacts of agriculture; the effective use of renewable resources and biodiversity in agroecosystems; and the technological and sociological implications of sustainable food systems." Contributions are welcome from researchers and scholars striving to understand and advance sustainability in conventional systems, as well as those working in organic, biological, biointensive, and natural systems agriculture, and other alternative approaches, according to editor-in-chief John Doran. For more information, write to [rafs@cabi.org](mailto:rafs@cabi.org); a sample issue in pdf format is available at [www.cabi-publishing.org/rafs](http://www.cabi-publishing.org/rafs). The Wallace Center launched the AJAA in 1986 ([www.winrock.org/wallacecenter/ajaatoc.htm](http://www.winrock.org/wallacecenter/ajaatoc.htm)), and since 2001, when it transferred ownership to CABI Publishing, has served as ad hoc advisor in helping to chart the journal's shape and direction.

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## CALENDAR

### July 2004

23–24, “Agency Capture: Has the ‘People’s Agency’ Become the ‘Lobbyist’s Agency?’,” 2004 Food & Agriculture Conference/members’ meeting, in Omaha, NE; contact Organization for Competitive Markets, (402) 792-0041; [ocm@competitivemarkets.com](mailto:ocm@competitivemarkets.com).

24 through October 11, Summer 2004 Programs, series of field days and other events in PA and NY; contact Penn. Assoc. for Sustainable Agriculture, (814) 349-9856; [info@pasafarming.org](mailto:info@pasafarming.org).

24–28: “Headwaters of Conservation,” Soil and Water Conservation Society 2004 Annual Conference, with 4 program areas (Soil and environmental quality; Agricultural management and environmental quality; Assessing effectiveness of conservation programs; and Geo-spatial technology for conservation), in St. Paul, MN; (515) 289-2331 ext. 17; [www.swcs.org/t\\_what2004confprogram.htm](http://www.swcs.org/t_what2004confprogram.htm).

26: Abstract submission deadline for TMDL 2005, Water Environment Foundation’s annual specialty conference on total maximum daily load requirements of Clean Water Act, June 26–29, 2005, in Philadelphia, PA; [www.wef.org/pdf/files/TMDL05Call.pdf](http://www.wef.org/pdf/files/TMDL05Call.pdf).

27–29: Upper Midwest Grazing Conference, in LaCrosse, WI; contact Larry Tranel, (563) 583-6496 ext. 14; or [jendress@uiuc.edu](mailto:jendress@uiuc.edu).

### August 2004

1–6: “Lessons of Lewis and Clark: Ecological Exploration of Inhabited Landscapes,” Ecological Society of America’s 80th Annual Meeting including focus on disputes over farmland, threatened wildlife habitat, and urbanization of wild lands, in Portland, OR; <http://esa.org/portland/>.

12–15: “Breaking Ground for the Future with the Wisdom of the Past,” Northeast Organic Farming Association’s 30th Annual Summer Conference & Annual Meeting, in Amherst, MA; NOFA, (978) 355-2853; or D. Cronin, [nofareg@juno.com](mailto:nofareg@juno.com); [www.nofamass.org](http://www.nofamass.org).

15–20: “Science and Technology Policy: Who Wins, Who Loses, and Who Cares?,” Gordon Research Conference, in Big Sky, MT;

[www.grc.uri.edu/programs/2004/policy.htm](http://www.grc.uri.edu/programs/2004/policy.htm).

17–19: Beginning Rangeland Management School, sponsored by Kansas Graziers Association, in Council Grove, KS; contact KGA, (785) 363-7306; [marshallcofair@networksplus.net](mailto:marshallcofair@networksplus.net). (For Advanced Rangeland Management School, Aug. 25–27, contact Duane Cheney, Western RC&D, (785) 462-2602.)

### September 2004

9–10: “Role of Farmers’ Markets in America’s Food System,” 2nd national workshop co-sponsored by Drake University Agricultural Law Center, held jointly with 3rd annual Iowa Food Policy Conference, in Des Moines, IA; [www.statefoodpolicy.org/new\\_developments.htm](http://www.statefoodpolicy.org/new_developments.htm).

9–11: “First Food Nations: Creating a Recipe for Change,” Native Food Summit 2004, native agriculture and food systems initiative on food policy and enterprise development, in Milwaukee, WI; contact First Nations Development Institute, (540) 371-5615 ext. 47; [www.firstnations.org](http://www.firstnations.org).

18–19, 2004 Northeast Small Farm and Rural Living Expo, in New Paltz, NY; contact Les Hulcoop, Cornell Cooperative Ext. (Dutchess County), (845) 677-8223 ext. 130; [www.smallfarmexpo.org](http://www.smallfarmexpo.org).

19–22: National Public Policy Education Conference on rural entrepreneurship, health care challenges, equitability of farm program benefits, community agriculture and food systems, water resource competition, and agricultural trade, in St. Louis, MO; contact Steve Halbrook, [steve@farmfoundation.org](mailto:steve@farmfoundation.org); [www.farmfoundation.org/npeindex.htm](http://www.farmfoundation.org/npeindex.htm).

24, October 7, 22, and 23, “Livestock Nutrition and Healthcare,” 3-part course on ruminants including natural and organic-approved treatments, sponsored by NOFA Vermont, Northeast SARE program, and USDA Risk Management Agency, in Burlington, VT; contact NOFA-VT, (802) 933-6965; [sarahf@globalnetisp.net](mailto:sarahf@globalnetisp.net).



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