



Organic Program News October 21, 2011

National Organic Standards Board Set to Meet in Savannah, GA November 29 - December 2 Agenda Available Online Now

The Fall National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) meeting is set for November 29 - December 2, 2011 in Savannah, Georgia. WSDA Program Manager Brenda Book, Materials Coordinator Nate Lewis, and Accreditation Manager Scott Rice plan to attend. We'll be sure to share a wrap-up of key decisions shortly after the meeting.

Highlights of the meeting agenda include:

- NOSB Materials Review Process Update
- NOP Report from Deputy Administrator Miles McEvoy
- Inert Materials Working Group Report
- Tree Fruit Fire Blight Update
- Discussions and recommendations regarding petitioned materials and those scheduled for sunset
- Presentations and Discussions from the NOSB Crops, Livestock, Handling, Materials, and Compliance, Accreditation and Certification committees

The complete agenda, the Federal Register Notice and Committee Recommendations are now available on the meeting's [website](#) (select the meeting's dates from the drop down list and click go).

Written comments may be submitted [here](#) and are due by November 13. Comments received after this date may not be considered by the NOSB prior to the meeting.

The NOSB also invites you to provide in-person public comments at the meeting in Savannah, Georgia. As listed in the agenda, public comments are scheduled for Tuesday, November 29 and Thursday, December 1, 2011. The NOSB will accommodate as many individuals and organizations as possible during these sessions. Individuals and organizations wishing to make oral presentations at the meeting may request one short time slot by visiting the link below or by calling (202) 720-3252.

[Request In-Person Public Comment Slot](#)

Organic Advisory Board to Meet in Yakima Nov. 10

WSDA's Organic Advisory Board will be meeting November 10 in Yakima in advance of Tilth Producers of WA's annual conference November 11-13. OAB meetings are open to all and we invite those interested to attend. Please contact Brenda Book prior to the meeting if you are interested in attending.

bbook@agr.wa.gov or 360-902-2090

WSDA's Organic Advisory Board (OAB) was established in 1987 to advise WSDA concerning the implementation of the WSDA Organic Food Program. The OAB consists of organic farmers, processors,

handlers and other interested parties that meet 3-4 times a year to discuss the Organic Food Program and recommend policy to the WSDA Organic Food Program.

WSDA Releases 'Farm Wisdom' Videos Aimed to Help Minimize Risk on Small Farms

WSDA is pleased to announce their latest publication in the form of videos to aid producers in minimizing risk in small farm businesses. Called **Farm Wisdom**, this series offers information and insights from farmers on their farms directly to you. From alternative energy on small farms to poultry processing facilities that meet WSDA licensing requirements, farmers can gain insights on what it takes to implement cost-saving measures and/or comply with regulations.

A diverse set of small-scale producers served as farm hosts for WSDA's 2009-2011 mobile workshops aimed at helping farmers reduce risk in their businesses. Production practices, direct marketing strategies, business planning, energy conservation practices, and regulations for raw and processed products are all featured in this video series. More than 200 Washington farmers participated in 16 workshops and found the information to be so useful, that we began filming them in order to reach more farmers with this invaluable, practical information.

While Washington has 39,000 farms and ranches, and all face multiple business and production risks ranging from rapidly changing markets to increasing occurrences of natural disasters, it's the small-scale farms and ranches that are more likely to face additional challenges to being profitable.

The farmers featured in this series are leaders in utilizing innovative and viable business and production practices to manage risk, and to build and maintain sustainable small-scale farms. The series includes 11 videos made possible by 2 consecutive Community Outreach and Assistance Partnership grants from USDA Risk Management Agency.

Visit the [WSDA website](#) for links to all of the videos.

Cooperative Extension Offers Informative Webinars

Washington State University and the Cooperative Extension System offers excellent webinars on the latest in organic farming practices and research, including topics such as flooding and organic certification, plant breeding, growing transplants, food safety, dairy production and more. The site, linked below, will be adding many new webinars throughout the fall and winter, but you can view the first ones in their current schedule, register for webinars and view all their recorded presentations at <http://www.extension.org/pages/25242>

The following webinars are either available for viewing or open for registration:

[Flooding and Organic Certification](#)

[How to Breed for Organic Production Systems](#)

[Plan for Marketing Your Organic Products](#)

[Root Media and Fertility Management for Organic Transplants](#)

[Tracking your Produce - For Your Business and Health](#)

[Starting Up Small-Scale Organic Hops Production](#)

Get to Know Your Organic Program Staff

In our last issue, we introduced you to two Organic Program staff to give you an opportunity to get to know us in the field and office. This issue, we're featuring Field Inspector **Lee Graham** and Certification Specialist **Renee Delaney**.



Quincy-based inspector **Lee Graham** is responsible for the central part of the state, an area that comprises a diverse array of production types. Lee makes annual visits to organic operations throughout this region, inspecting sites for compliance with national organic standards, while also investigating compliance issues. Lee brings a deep background in WA agriculture with experience ranging from field work for food processors to work in the seed industry to writing dairy nutrient management plans. Lee holds a B. S. in Horticulture, Fruit and Vegetable Production from WSU, a M.S. in Agronomy, Plant Breeding and Statistics from Colorado State University and has completed inspection training through the International Organic Inspectors Association.



With the program since 2008, **Renee Delaney** works with both new and existing organic livestock producers on all aspects of organic production and certification. Renee has a focus on feed and forage crop production in organic systems and is our program's small farm liaison, helping to coordinate the agency's outreach to the state's many small farms. Prior to joining the program, Renee worked in diverse sectors of the agriculture community including vineyard management, nursery merchandising and pest management. Renee holds a B.A. in Plant Biology/Botany from Southern Illinois University and has completed inspection training through the International Organic Inspectors Association.

WSDA Staff Event Calendar

Following are just some of the events where you can connect with WSDA staff, who will be presenting or attending on behalf of the program.

October 25-26 | Western Organic Dairy Producers Association
Portland, OR

November 11-13 | Tilth Producers of WA Annual Conference
Yakima, WA

November 16-17 | Pacific NW Vegetable Association
Kennewick, WA

November 29-December 2 | National Organic Standards Board
Savannah, GA

December 5-7 | Washington State Horticulture Association
Wenatchee, WA