#### Click to view this email in a browser



Join Us!





#### **Comments to NOSB - April Meeting**

The NOSB meeting is April 26-29, 2011. The Board makes recommendations to the National Organic Program (NOP) as to whether a substance should be allowed or prohibited in organic production or handling, assists in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production, and advises the Secretary of Agriculture regarding other aspects of implementation of the Organic Farming Production Act (OFPA). Topics include: Animal Stocking Rates, Animal Handling and Slaughter, Classification and allowance of Corn Steep Liquor, Nutrient Vitamins and Minerals, and Sodium Nitrate Allowance. More on the NOSB meeting...

#### **NOP Organic Cost Share Program**

The Organic Certification Cost Share Programs reimburse eligible producers and handlers for a portion of the costs of organic certifications. Producers and handlers who have received certification or a renewal of certification from an accredited certifying agent are eligible to participate. More on Organic Cost Share Program...

#### **UN Reports Agroecology can Double Food Output**

Natural methods such as insect-trapping plants and fowl for weed control have shown average crop yield gains of 80 percent in 57 nations. Recent projects in 20 African countries had resulted in doubling of crop yields within three to ten years. More on <u>UN Agroecology report</u>...

# Farmers and Consumer Groups File Lawsuit Challenging GM Alfalfa Approval

Attorneys for the Center for Food Safety and Earthjustice filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture arguing that the agency's recent unrestricted approval of GM alfalfa was unlawful. USDA data show that 93% of alfalfa planted by farmers in the U.S. is not treated with herbicides. More on GM alfalfa lawsuit...

#### **New Regulations for Organic Eggs**

USDA's organic chicken regulations are intended to foster natural behavior for the animals. So, the Livestock Committee of the USDA's National Organic Standards Board has recommended that definitions should be added to the NOP Handbook to refine what "outdoor access" means when it comes to organically raised chickens. More on organic egg regulations...

#### Interim Rule Extends Use of Methionine in Organic Poultry Production

USDA has adopted as final an interim rule that extends the use of synthetic methionine in organic poultry production until October 1, 2012. More on methionine rule...

#### FTSLA Webinar - Jumpstart your Sustainability Progress with the Natural

Forward this message to a friend | 503.378.0690

#### In this Issue

Comments to NOSB - April Meeting

NOP Organic Cost Share Program

UN Reports Agroecology can
Double Food Output

Farmers and Consumers Groups
File Lawsuit Challenging GM
Alfalfa Approval

New Regulations for Organic Eggs

Interim Rule Extends Use of Methionine in Organic Poultry Production

FTSLA Webinar - Jumpstart your Sustainability Progress with the Natural Step Framework

### **Upcoming Events**

NOSB Spring Meeting April 26, 2011

Portland, OR

The NOSB meeting agenda and draft recommendations will be available mid-March. Online reservations for oral comments at the meeting is already open! Read more on the NOSB Spring Meeting!

## OEC Class Postings New Web Page

Around Portland, OR

OEC has all class postings organized on their Classes Page. Be sure to visit and see the upcoming classes!

1 of 2 9/13/11 2:39 PM



Join Us!





#### Step Framework - April 13th

Businesses across the spectrum are looking to adopt more sustainable practices to optimize social and environmental impacts, finances, reputation and more. It's important to be strategic to maximize efficiency and outcomes relative to the time and resources you invest, and the values you seek to uphold. The Natural Step, a science-based sustainability framework, offers a highly valuable and relevant way to help you understand key sustainability issues, the kinds of practices and performance targets are truly needed to address them, and how to prioritize, plan and take action to deliver meaningful results. More on the <a href="FTSLA Webinar">FTSLA Webinar</a>...



Forward this message to a friend | 503.378.0690



2 of 2 9/13/11 2:39 PM