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OTCO News

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USDA Releases EIS on GM Alfalfa

December 16, 2010 - The US Department of Agriculture released the final environmental impact statement (EIS) that evaluates the potential environmental effects of deregulating Roundup Ready GM Alfalfa covering three possible outcomes: Retain the regulated status, grant nonregulated status, or establish geographic restrictions and isolation distances on production. More on USDA EIS on GM alfalfa.

USDA Offers Conservation Funding to Organic Producers

USDA will provide funding to help organic producers and those transitioning to organic production implement resource conservation practices on their agricultural operations. This year is the third year of USDA's Organic Initiative and $50 million is available for producers to plan and implement conservation practices regarding natural resources. USDA Conservation Funding Info

David Granatstein Received Organic Industry Service Award

David Granatstein was recently given the first Organic Industry Service Award bestowed by the Washington State Horticultural Association. David is one of Oregon Tilth's Board members. Congratulations, David! David's Award Info.

NOP Proposes Renewal of Twelve Substances

The National Organic Program published a proposed rule to renew the listing of 12 substances which are currently allowed in the production and handling of organic foods. The proposed rule would extend the exemptions for these substances, which have a sunset date of September 12, 2011, on the National List. Twelve Substances Info.

ERS Issues New Report on Organic Contracts

The Economic Research Service (ERS) report, "The Role of Contracts in the Organic Supply Chain: 2004 and 2007," details the extent and reasoning in contracting organic operations. The report is based on survey data collected from certified organic processors, distributors, and manufacturers. It found that contracts between handlers and suppliers are common due to the rise in demand for organic products. Read the Contract Report.

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Upcoming Events

Organicology Conference
February 10-12, 2011
Portland, OR

Organicology is just around the corner! Spread the word!

Organicology is an interactive educational format created to meet the diverse needs of our rapidly expanding trade. Organicology offers curriculum designed to advance trade knowledge between seed producers, farmers, distributors and retailers, researchers and educators, chefs, food policy activists and, of course, good food lovers!
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