

# MEMBER NEWS



June 2008

## Education: Online resource

Just because school is ending for the summer doesn't mean that learning has to stop! Kids can learn about where their food comes from and the people who grow it with the [4-H Virtual Farm](#) website. They can learn to talk like a dairy farmer, watch chicks hatch, and take quizzes to test their farm knowledge!

## Research: Industrial Farm Animal Production

The Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production considers the public health and environmental risks of the current industrial farm animal production system in its recent report, [Putting Meat on the Table: Industrial Farm Animal Production in America](#). It's comforting to know that organic livestock standards already meet many of the report's recommendations.

## Advocacy: Oregon Tilth Members Support Farm Bill!

That's right, some of you, our Oregon Tilth members, took an active role in advocating for the 2008 Farm Bill by answering our call to action and urging your representatives to vote in favor of the legislation. The current version of the Farm Bill will provide for substantial gains in funding for organic and sustainable agricultural programs. Thanks for helping us advocate for a food system that will benefit us all!

## Certification: Organic Q&A

Q: I try to manage my yard and garden as organically as possible. How do I find certified organic compost for my yard?

A: First, let's clarify that compost cannot be certified organic. Only agricultural products can be certified, therefore compost and soil are not eligible for organic certification. According to the National Organic Program standard, compost that contains only plant matter does not need to maintain a specific temperature or be turned in order for it to be used on organic crops; it can be applied at any time prior to harvest. Compost that contains animal material needs to be applied to organic crops a specific number of days before harvest: 90 days before harvest of crops whose edible portion doesn't touch the soil, and 120 days before harvest of crops whose edible portion does touch the soil.

## In This Issue

- [Online resource](#)
- [Industrial Farm Animal Production](#)
- [Members in Action](#)
- [Organic Q & A](#)

## Did you know?

Oregon ranks 8th in the country for the number of certified organic operations. Read about Oregon's organic industry in this [Oregon Employment Department article](#).

## Invite a Friend

Do you know someone who is interested in food systems that are healthy for people as well as the environment? Invite them to [become a supporting member](#) of Oregon Tilth!

## Forward News to a Friend

By forwarding this newsletter to a friend they will be able to temporarily receive the electronic newsletter. If you know someone who would like to receive this, click below to forward this newsletter to them!

Oregon Tilth is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports and promotes biologically sound and socially equitable agriculture through education, research, advocacy and product certification.



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