

Minnesota Organic Network Conference Call Notes from 6 October, 2005.

Present on the call: Bill Wilcke, DeEtta Bilek, Mary Jo Forbord, Helene Murray, Bud Markhart, Pauline Nickel, Jeremy Lanctot, John Beckwith, Lori Scott, and Paul Porter.

Issues discussed in the **Round Robin update:**

Helene M.: mentioned the 16 Nov. MISA planning session and review of a recent MISA survey. Begins at 2:30 p.m. in 408 Hayes Hall, St. Paul campus. Reception at 4:30. All are welcome.

Bill W.: mentioned an upcoming Organic Advisory Task Force (OATF) meeting on 24 Oct. at the (old) MN Dep. of Ag building. He also mentioned the Iowa Organic Conference in mid-Nov. More info at:

<http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/organic05/home.html>

Paul P.: briefly discussed attending the IFOAM meetings in Adelaide Australia in late Sept. He presented information on his organic research with no-till soybeans following a rye cover crop. More info <http://www.ifoam2005.info>

Pauline N.: noted that UofM students in Deon Stuthman and Jim Anderson's course recently visited the SWROC and were exposed to the VICMS study by Milt Haar. She also gave the group a 'teaser' regarding the possibility of a sizeable organic grant being received by Uof M folks.

John B.: mentioned an online NRCS soil survey for soils maps and plants data bases. The site can be reached through www.nrcs.usda.gov

Jeremy L.: said something about snow, but nobody wanted to hear about it.

Mary Jo F.: talked about a meeting on Saturday 18 Feb. 2006 in Little Falls on the linkage of sustainable agriculture and health and "Cultivating Common Ground". She will be in St. Louis in two weeks attending a meeting with the American Dietician Association where there will be a session linking sustainable agriculture and health.

Bud M.: gave a summary of Cornercopia, the UofM Organic Student Farm, and mentioned a 12 Oct. WUSA (What's Up with Sustainable Ag) seminar on the topic of the Student Farm. He mentioned his current organic class has visited and worked in the Student Farm.

DeEtta B.: is currently trying to line up keynote speakers of the Minnesota Organic Ag conference to be held 20-21 Jan. 2006 in St. Cloud.

Lori S.: mentioned she attended a recent Seed Savers meeting in Iowa.

AGENDA DISCUSSION:

The Organic Network doesn't currently have a website or a web presence. The SFA has offered

to be a 'starter home' for the Organic Network website. The discussion centered on what the website should look like. It could contain information on its mission, the MOU, minutes of the Organic Network conference calls, logistics of the calls, host and scribe responsibilities, a list of the 63 or so current member of the listserve, etc. Mary Jo mentioned there could be a set-up cost of less than \$1,000 and perhaps an annual maintenance cost of about \$800. SFA would look for a sponsor to cover this. Helene suggested that Jane Jewett of MISA be contacted as she recently redesigned the MISA website after gathering suggestions from readers. Bud and others suggested a minimalistic beginning. Volunteers on the content committee included Bud, Mary Jo and Meg M. (by acclamation). This committee will meet by conference call. Helene suggested Kate at MISA would facilitate/assist with the call.

After silence, it was concluded that "St. Paul" would host and "SWROC" would scribe for the 3 Nov. 2005 call (First Thursday) at 8:30.

NEXT CALL: 8:30 a.m. on Thursday 3 November, 2005

Submitted by Paul Porter, scribe