

News Release University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Aquaponics Innovation Center Officially Opens

The Aquaponics Innovation Center, a one-of-a kind partnership between the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Nelson and Pade, Inc.,® Montello, officially opened April 23.

“This is really a spectacular day at one of the most amazing facilities you’ll see,” Chris Cirimo, dean of the College of Letters and Science at UW-Stevens Point told guests from the state of Wisconsin, UW System and aquaponics industry Thursday.

UW Regent Vice President Regina Millner called it a transformational partnership for education and economic development in Wisconsin. “The efforts already have created and retained jobs,” she said.

The Aquaponics Innovation Center is a 4,800-square-foot facility housed in Nelson and Pade’s new state-of-the-art, controlled-environment greenhouse. Construction began in August 2014 and was completed earlier this year.

The Aquaponics Innovation Center will provide education and resources for economic and workforce development. New business innovation and ways to overcome obstacles for this rapidly growing food production industry will be explored.

“Our partners at UW-Stevens Point are providing amazing opportunities for education,” said John Pade, co-founder and co-owner of Nelson and Pade, Inc. The company is a leader in designing, building and operating aquaponic systems.



Cutting the ribbon to the new UW-Stevens Point Aquaponics Innovation Center involving UW-System Board of Regents, State Representative Ballweg, UW-Stevens Point Administration, Nelson and Pade, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and Ms. Wisconsin.

The Aquaponics Innovation Center is equipped with six fish and soil-less plant production systems to conduct and replicate research benefiting the aquaponics industry. Faculty, students and industry representatives will conduct research and demonstrations there. A \$677,500 state economic *cont. on page*

Update on Wisconsin State Budget

On Friday, May 29, the Joint Finance Committee addressed the University of Wisconsin System budget cuts proposed by Governor Walker. On Friday evening, WAA was informed that the JFC voted to restore funding to the Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility and to fund 1 UW-Extension, Aquaculture Specialist position. While agreeing to fund only 1 of the 2 existing Aquaculture Specialist positions, this was a major step as, up to this point, these positions had not been permanently funded through the state since their creation in 2007. It is a testament to the resolve and persistence of the industry that funding had continued to be found throughout these years to retain these positions, and an achievement that our farmers have brought to the attention of their legislators the importance of the industry to Wisconsin and the value of aquaculture extension to their businesses and livelihoods. The Association has also supported the UW-SP/NADF facility from its inception and time and again espoused its importance in bringing important, relevant research to the farmers. NADF operates on a very small budget, yet provides the industry with results and

information farmers can take home and implement.

The WAA board wants to thank all of its members for contacting your legislators and telling them of the importance of these 2 programs to the industry. It is through your relationships with your senators and representatives that this was achievable in a time of renewed budget cuts.

WAA also thanks the Joint Finance Committee for realizing the value of the UW Extension Aquaculture Specialists and the UW-SP/NADF to the aquaculture industry in the state and taking the necessary steps to retain these.

As the Creel is going to press, the budget bill now goes on to the full assembly and senate for their consideration and then on to the Governor for his signature. Support is needed at all stages of the process. The board urges each of you to call your legislators and thank them for their past support, and to support aquaculture in the budget bill. If this funding is not left in place it will be a major setback to our industry.

The board also urges you to please consider participating in Aquaculture Day this year and invite your legislators to your farms and personally thank them for their support.

The CREEL

June 2015 Volume 48* ** Number 2

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UW EXTENSION - Extension is available to help farmers with any questions you may have. Their knowledge ranges from all fish cultures and all types of operation, from startup to established. There is no fee for their services.

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WISCONSIN AQUACULTURE ASSN. COMMITTEES

If you are interested in joining any committee, please contact any committee member. The effectiveness of our committees and our organization are based on membership participation.

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Creation, review and development of business development tools for aquaculture

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Jim Held

Coordination and review of research, training, educational programming

Regulatory Policy

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NAA

Bob Robinson, Kasco Marine, Inc., bob.r@kascomarine.com

Start Planning for Aquaculture Day - July 18

The 2015 Wisconsin Aquaculture Day is scheduled for Saturday, July 18. Aquaculture Day gives our industry the opportunity to promote Wisconsin Aquaculture by inviting the public for a day of fun and education. It helps us get the word out about the role commercial aquaculture plays in the state's economy, local communities, and providing recreational opportunities and a safe healthy food. By encouraging the public to visit your farm they can learn first hand about aquaculture and it gives you the opportunity to promote your business.

Consider this day as a marketing event for your business:

- to show your appreciation to your current customers and the community,
- to promote your business to new customers,
- to educate the public about aquaculture in general and Wisconsin aquaculture specifically,
- as an opportunity to invite officials and dignitaries to your farm - local, state and federal - to learn about your business and the industry, your contribution to the local and state economies, your place in the community, your successes and where you have concerns they need to be aware of. Several of our members use this day to get some one on one time with their legislators - remember, they can only make an informed vote on aquaculture issues if they know what your business involves and how rules and policies affect you, and your input has more of an impact when they know you.

What you can do:

You only need to be open the hours you want, there is no need to be

open all day. And your farm doesn't need to normally be open to the public – this is the chance for the public to get a “behind the scenes” look at an aquaculture operation.

Think of what you can offer visitors to your farm to encourage interest and attendance. People are attracted to something they perceive as a 1 time only, once a year, special event, not normally open to the public, etc. opportunity. Consider having any of the following:

- Talks,
- Demonstrations,
- Tours,
- Products for sale or sampling, or other promotions,
- If you sell food fish - have samplings or cooking demo and recipes,
- Show how you raise fish or grow them out, how you collect and fertilize the eggs, put them in jars or hatching trays, sort them, net or seine them & feed them,
- Show what types of aeration you have, explain the difference between pond, RAS or raceway systems,
- Whether you raise fish for food, stocking or bait, let them know of the species and numbers of fish you raise,
- Show them the procedures you follow to ensure that you provide safe and healthy fish that they and their families can purchase for food or catch on outings to the lake and streams.

Information I will need are:

- Address & directions to your farm
- Hours you will be open to the public on July 18
- Normal business hours, if you are normally open to the public
- How the public can contact you for more information (phone/email)
- What you will offer - tours, demos, samples, fish *continued on page 4*

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The CREEL is published quarterly, March, June, September and December; WAA welcomes input and involvement from all interested parties.

Unless otherwise indicated, all articles are authored by *The CREEL* editor and/or WAA editorial committee. Editorial comments pertinent to other submissions are italicized and noted in parenthesis (ed.)

All opinions expressed in *The CREEL* are those of the contributor/author and not necessarily those of the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association, its officers or directors.

The CREEL reaches many potential customers four times per year. If your business involves the growing or selling of any aquaculture product or any necessary equipment, feed or services, advertising will be a great benefit to you.

The CREEL goes to press the 1st of February, May, August, and November. Please submit jpg or pdf ad copy and payment to the Secretary/Editor 1 week prior to this for inclusion in the upcoming issue.

Rates per issue are as follows:

1/8 page (business card): \$30; 1/4 page: \$40; 1/2 page: \$60; Full page: \$100

Aquaculture Day, continued from page 3

recipes, product discounts

What products that you will have for purchase (pond supplies, fresh/smoked fish, spreads, fee fishing) and if you don't typically have products on hand do people need to call ahead to place an order?
Description of your farm & business

Also keep in mind that in the past, several farms had a significant increase in visitors on the following day (Sunday) - there may be people who can't make it on Saturday, but can come on Sunday.

I will be contacting farms, but if you want to participate and don't hear from me, call or email me: cindy@wisconsinaquaculture.com, 814-515-2570

Aquaponics Innovation Center, cont. from page 1

4 development incentive grant made this project possible.

Research is about to begin on using walleye, a popular cold-water fish, in aquaponic systems. Tilapia is most commonly used. It grows quickly in warm water, which also benefits greens and other vegetables grown in the integrated system. Fish raised at UW-Stevens Point's Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility, Bayfield, will be used for aquaponics research in Montello.

Nearly 90 percent of seafood consumed in the United States is imported, noted Tricia Braun, deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp., said at the opening. The seafood trade deficit exceeds \$10 billion annually, the largest trade deficit of all U.S. agriculture products.

Nelson and Pade's goal is to provide global food security through efficient, economically sustainable aquaponics systems. The co-founders approached Chris Hartleb, biology professor at UW-Stevens Point, about offering courses to meet the need for science-based knowledge to manage these systems.

The aquaponics industry is growing, as is the demand for skilled managers and workers in new and existing aquaponics businesses, said Rebecca Nelson, co-founder and co-owner. "Each year, the number of aquaponic farms in the U.S. more than doubles, and



Chris Hartleb, UW-Stevens Point biology professor, speaks with Jim Hurley from Wisconsin Sea Grant during the grand opening of the Aquaponics Innovation Center April 23 at Nelson and Pade, Inc., Montello. They are in a greenhouse where lettuce grows in an integrated fish and soil-less system, and where UW-Stevens Point offers courses on aquaponics. (Photo courtesy of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point)

Aquaponics Innovation Center, continued



Dr. Hartleb discussing the aquaponics system with a guest

the size of the newest farms are much larger than they were just a few years ago."

UW-Stevens Point was the first four-year accredited university in the United States to offer a semester-long aquaponics class, developed and taught by Hartleb, Nelson and Pade. UW-Stevens Point began offering a professional aquaponics certificate program in fall 2014 and has the only aquaculture minor at a higher education institution in Wisconsin.

The innovation center affirms Wisconsin is a national leader in the aquaponics industry, said Hartleb, UW-Stevens Point director of aquaponics and aquaculture. "From an economic standpoint, it positions UW-Stevens Point as a leader in aquaponic food production workforce training, business advancement and industry discovery."

Aquaponics combines aquaculture and hydroponics in one integrated, soil-less system. Nutrients from fish waste feed the plants, and plants naturally filter the water for fish. Nelson and Pade's 13,500-square-foot facility demonstrates its commercial aquaponic systems, which produce 1,000 heads of lettuce, 100 pounds of fish and a variety of vegetables weekly, year-round.

An integrated, commercial aquaponic system in a controlled environment can grow six times more food on one-sixth of the space and one-sixth the water outdoor soil farming requires, Nelson said.

One of nine people in the world do not have enough food to eat, noted Chancellor Bernie Patterson. "It would be hard to underestimate the impact of the work being done at this facility and this state to find sustainable solutions to global food shortages."



The new research facility has 6 replicate production systems

From the Editor

There appears to be numerous sources of financial funding available for farmers right now, so I have a lot of articles on grants & loan programs in this issue. A lot of reading material, but if you are eligible to apply, it's worth the effort.

The end of April I had to make a trip back to Wisconsin and stopped at several farms along the way. - check out pictures on page

Hopefully by the time you receive this the legislature will have voted in favor of keeping the JFC aquaculture funding in the budget and the governor will have kept it in also. I will have emailed you in regards to contacting your legislators to ask them to vote to keep the funding in the budget. The board thanks you in advance for taking the time to contact them.

Upcoming events to mark down:

Aquaculture Day

Aquaculture Day is Saturday, July 18. Let's make this the year we have the most farms participating. WAA will promote this day through media coverage, but we also need you to help promote it in your area as well. See the article on page 3 for more information. I will be sending out a listserv message asking who will be part of this.

WAA Members Picnic

The 2016 Annual Picnic will be held sometime in the middle of September at Gollon Bait and Fish Farm. This should be an inter-

esting farm tour for everyone - the Gollons raise an large number of fish species and have their new walleye ponds in operation. The picnic will be in conjunction with the board meeting and WAIAC meeting. A date hasn't been set yet, but I will be emailing you more information and the meeting date will be posted on our website. Call me if you need more information.

2016 Joint Conference with NCRAC

We are still working on confirming a hotel for the conference. With this being a much bigger conference than we have had in quite a while, the hotel choices a limited, plus the facility must fit with our needs. The date has been changed to March 12-13, Saturday and Sunday. I will keep you posted vis the website, list serv message and the Creel when we have confirmation so you can start planning to attend.

I hope you all have a busy and profitable summer!

Cindy

Please note these changes:

WAA email addresses

Please note these email changes:

Kathy Foster has 2 email addresses

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Cindy Johnson email is: info@wisconsinaquaculture.com

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Advancing Aquaponics and Aquaculture Education

Grand Opening of the Aquaponics Innovation Center (AIC)

By Emma Wiermaa



1 of 6 replicate aquaponics production units of the UW-Stevens Point Aquaponics Innovation Center.

Through a partnership, UW-Stevens Point College of Letters and Science and Nelson & Pade, Inc. have constructed the nation's first Aquaponics Innovation Center (AIC). The AIC is the first-of-its-kind applied research and education center located in Montello, WI. The facility has six replicate aquaponics production units

capable of raft (deep water), media, and NFT production. Additional resources include water chemistry and microbiology analyses, purge and quarantine systems, plant physiology and insect measuring systems, and light manipulation and analysis, along with adaptable production units.

The AIC will be offered by UW-Stevens Point through the Aquaponics full semester courses and Aquaponics Certificate Program. The Grand Opening for the AIC along with Nelson and Pade's

new commercial and hobby greenhouses was held on April 23rd - 25th. The event brought in over 500 people over the course of the three days which included politicians, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, the UW-Board of Regents, UW-Stevens Point campus and administration, private businesses, and even Miss Wisconsin herself! Freshly prepared dishes were made for guests to sample featuring Nelson and Pade's own fresh vegetables and tilapia as well as fresh Atlantic salmon and saugeye straight from the UW-Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility. The AIC is a wonderful example of a public-private partnership and will provide hands on applied research and experience in aquaponics, offering a world-class education.

Educating the Workforce with World-class Facilities

UW-Stevens Point continues to be the only accredited University in the nation to offer semester-long college aquaponics courses that have educated >200 students nationwide in 4 years. The university is also the only higher education institution in Wisconsin with an aquaculture minor and professional aquaponics certificate *continued on page 7*



Beautiful appetizers and dishes were prepared for the Grand Opening event



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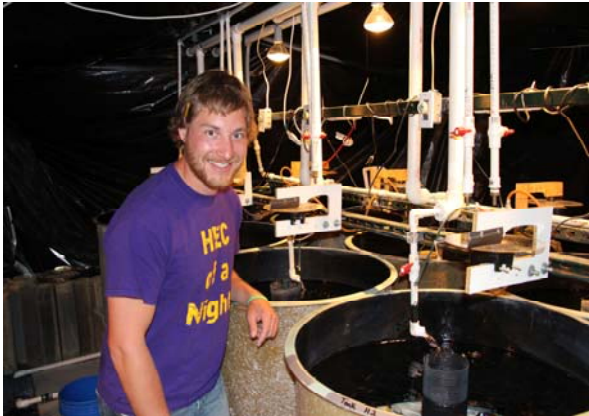
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Let's Solve Water

Advancing Aquaponics, continued from page 6

program. Furthermore, the university offers an Aquaponics Master Class, a 3-day comprehensive workshop that covers all aspects of Aquaponics and controlled environment agriculture held at Nelson & Pade, Inc. ®, in Montello, WI. More information regarding these opportunities can be found at www.uwsp.edu/aquaponics

Not only do these incredible opportunities provide an education, but also the hands-on experience and applied research that employers in the aqua-business are desperately searching for. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is very unique, providing innovative research facilities in both aquaculture, with the Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility (UWSP-NADF), and now in aquaponics, with the Aquaponics Innovation Center. Students, interns and LTEs that gain experience at the UWSP-NADF for even a summer have an incredible job placement rate of over 90%.



Last summer's internship at the facility, was offered to Sam Hempel, a UW-Stevens Point student, who is now headed to work in Yellowstone National Park with

Hickey Bros. Research LLC. Sam states "I was given a great internship opportunity at NADF during the summer of 2014. My experience was extremely valuable as I was taught many skills to work with multiple species and aquaculture techniques...My experience at NADF provided me with skills that I will be able to use in the future in aquaculture and life..."

Also this year, UWSP-NADF aquaculture technician, Nicole Larson, has just recently accepted a position due to an international partnership regarding Atlantic salmon at the facility. She will be heading to Washington this July, hired as an aquaculture technician. She will be working alongside world renowned geneticists and partnerships on an international level.

Read our past interns success stories in their own words on our webpage at: aquaculture.uwsp.edu >About us>Past interns.

With the combined resources of UW-Stevens Point and partner Nelson & Pade, Inc. ®, hands-on experience and applied research is provided through world-class facilities in both aquaculture and now aquaponics. These facilities are providing an experienced, educated workforce to advance sustainable, economical, and ecologically responsible agriculture to grow fish and produce for tomorrow's markets. For more information, visit our webpage at aquaculture.uwsp.edu.



Rushing Waters and UW Madison Sea Grant Recipients of Grants

From Morning Ag Clips

NCR SARE awards seven Wis. farmers grants

Published on May 10th, 2015

MADISON, Wis. — The North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NCR SARE) has awarded seven Wisconsin farmers grants ranging from \$921 to \$20,526 for sustainable agriculture projects. Peter Fritsch of Rushing Waters in Palmyra, WI was awarded \$921 for the project, "Rushing Waters Aquaponics Feasibility Study." With this SARE grant, Fritsch will add a cold water aquaponics system to Rushing Waters Trout Farm to provide organic plant production and reduce phosphorous effluent.
Continued on page 8

Pentair Offers New Product

We have a new product to share with you - the Pentair AES Gas Control Tower (GCT). Formerly a product of HE Group, this product is used to maintain proper balance of dissolved gases in reuse process water.

The GCT is comprised of three sections: the CO2 Stripper (CO2), Low Head Oxygenator (LHO) and the LHO Sump (LHOS).

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Rushing Waters/Sea Grant, continued from pg. 7

All together, SARE funded 70 research and education projects proposed by farmers and educators in the 12-state North Central Region.

You can learn more about the SARE program online at <http://www.northcentralsare.org>. The next call for Farmer-Rancher grant proposals will come out in August 2015, and the proposals will be due in November 2015. SARE grants can fund research or education in sustainable agriculture. SARE does not provide grants for regular farming expenses or for starting a farm. This is a competitive program, and usually about a quarter of the Farmer-Rancher proposals are awarded funding. Wisconsin farmers can contact Andrew Bernhardt at andrew.bernhardt@ces.uwex.edu or Deirdre Birmingham at deirdreb4@gmail.com for information about the SARE grant application process.

From DATCP

UW Madison Receives BLBW Grant

MADISON – Eight local food projects ... are the latest recipients of Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin grants. These awards are designed to help farmers and food processors reach new local markets.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) received 42 funding requests, indicating the growing interest in expanding local food markets. In the end, eight projects were chosen to receive the awards, which total \$200,000.

UW-Madison through its Sea Grant Institute plans to increase consumer awareness of Wisconsin-grown fish products (Eat Wisconsin Fish program). The Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program provides education, tech-

Rushing Waters/Sea Grant, continued

nical assistance and other services to local food producers and processors. Learn more at [http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Local and Regional Food Program](http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Local%20and%20Regional%20Food%20Program).

Staff Changes and Updates

DATCP

Mike Bandli Moves to USDA

After 18 years at DATCP, working in various positions in the department, Mike Bandli accepted a position at USDA AMS Dairy Market News. His new position as Dairy Market News Reporter started on April 20. Mike has been a valued resource to the industry, working in the Division of Agricultural Development and leading the WAIAC meetings. His new contact information is 608-557-7010, Mike.bandli@ams.usda.gov. We wish Mike the best in his new position.

Angie Sullivan will take over as the facilitator at the WAIAC meetings. She is an agricultural program specialist working directly with Wisconsin farmers and farm families and focusing on organic, grazing and specialty-crop operations. Sullivan *cont. on pg. 11* recently started working at DATCP's Wisconsin Farm Center and just prior worked for 13 years at Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service (MOSES) first as a contractor for the MOSES conference, then as staff as an Organic Specialist. Prior to that, Sullivan owned and operated a three-acre vegetable and flower CSA and had a small livestock enterprise, which included dairy goats, sheep, poultry and honey bees. She also managed the *continued on page 9*

Fresh-flo Upgrades Motor for Transport Aerator

Sheboygan, WI -- April 21, 2015 -- Fresh-flo Corporation is installing a new motor on the salt water version of their model DT transport aerator and has already fulfilled orders with it. This new motor was engineered to provide exceptional performance and long life in demanding applications.

While the model DT aerator can be used in both fresh and salt water, it was input from a customer using it in salt water that prompted Fresh-flo to make the upgrade while maintaining the price of \$514. The new motor has a thicker case, is specially coated for salt water, and part of a severe duty line of motors. These motors include features designed to protect against contamination, moisture, vibration, and demanding duty cycles.

Developed for use on fish transport tanks where electric power is available, the model DT aerator is also well suited for use in raceways and recirculating systems. It's small size, 30" overall height, fits many systems and its dependable operation assures years of trouble-free performance. With a pump capacity of 115 gallons per minute (or 75 gallons per minute for smaller fish), the DT model weighs 45 pounds and allows for customization.

Also available is the model TT transport aerator which comes with a 12-volt motor and can also be used in fresh or salt water. The point of difference of the TT from the DT is lighter weight (15 pounds) and 75 gallons per minute pump capacity.

All of Fresh-flo's aerators restore adequate oxygen, reduce water

temperature, dislodge obnoxious gases, and dissolve organic wastes which ultimately results in better production, reduced loss, and improved fish growth.

Fresh-flo Corporation has been producing aerators since 1958. In addition to their transport and pond aerators, they also offer a fish grader and bug lite fish feeder. Their products can be found throughout the world in use by fish farmers and other businesses in the aquaculture industry as well as owners of small private bodies of water including lakes and ponds.

Fresh-flo Corporation is installing a new motor, engineered to provide exceptional performance and long life in demanding applications, on the salt water version of their model DT transport aerator. The motor has a thicker case, is specially coated for salt water, and part of a severe duty line of motors. The model DT aerator can be used in fresh or salt water transport tanks where electric power is available, as well as in raceways and recirculating systems. It's small size, weight, and dependable operation assure years of trouble-free performance. Fresh-flo's aerators restore adequate oxygen, reduce water temperature, dislodge obnoxious gases, and dissolve organic wastes which ultimately results in better production, reduced loss, and improved fish growth. For more information about all Fresh-flo products, call 920-208-1500 or visit www.freshflo.com



Staff Changes & Updates, continued from page 8

St. Croix Falls Farmers Market. Her contact information is An-gie.sullivan@wisconsin.gov , 608-224-5095, We look forward to meeting with her later this year.

DNR

Kurt Thiede Appointed Deputy Secretary

In March of 2015, Kurt Thiede was appointed by Governor Scott Walker to be the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. Prior to the appointment, Kurt was the Division Administrator for the Land Division for four years. He began his career with the department in the Wildlife Management program as an LTE in 1999. In his time with the agency, he has served as the Wildlife Management Regulation and Policy Specialist, the DNR Liaison to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress and a Customer Service and Licensing Program Supervisor for southern Wisconsin.

Kurt has a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. He replaces Matt Moroney who is now Governor Walker's senior advisor.

Michael Bruhn Appointed Assistant Deputy Secretary

Michael is a 1997 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Michael spent more than thirteen years working in the Wisconsin State Assembly clerking the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. He has many years of experience handling legislative issues related to hunting and fishing, environmental quality, firearms and the state budget.

Michael joined the DNR in July 2011 as the department's legislative

liaison. In September 2014, Michael was named as the department's director of policy and external relations where he was responsible for coordinating and managing the department's policy development and relations with external partners and stakeholders. His duties include supervising the DNR's Office of Communications, tribal liaison, and legislative liaison. On February 9, Governor Walker appointed Michael as the department's assistant deputy secretary. He replaces Scott Gunderson who is now working at the Wisconsin Revenue Department.

Mike Vogelsang named DNR north district fisheries supervisor

WOODRUFF, Wis. -- Mike Vogelsang has been named north district fisheries supervisor for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

A Watertown native, Vogelsang brings some 24 years of fisheries management experience with DNR to his new role. Vogelsang has served as leader of the headwaters fish team based in Woodruff since 2001, developing working partnerships with angling groups, tribal fisheries managers and community leaders while supervising fisheries biologists, technicians and overseeing development of management plans.

Vogelsang's supervisory role now covers fisheries teams extending from Florence County in the northeast to Bayfield County in the north to St. Croix County in the northwest. He will remain based in Woodruff and started his new position on April 19.

Vogelsang replaces Steve Avellemant, a longtime DNR northern Wisconsin fisheries supervisor who retired in 2014. CONTACT; Mike Vogelsang, DNR northern fisheries supervisor, Michael.Vogelsang@wisconsin.gov , 715-356-5211 Ext. 239

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SKRETTING 

From tiles to fish fry: School of Freshwater Sciences increases its commitment to burgeoning urban aquaculture industry through research and education.

MILWAUKEE – Where once a factory floor produced architectural tiles, now the University of Wisconsin.

Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences (SFS) will break ground by building a cutting edge aquaculture research and teaching facility. The goal is to put Wisconsin’s fish fry with Great Lakes fish on the world’s plates using intensive urban aquaculture and aquaponics.

UWM Chancellor Mark Mone highlighted the essential role of the School of Freshwater Sciences as a technology testbed for novel aquaculture processes. “It is great to see fundamental ecological research being translated into sustainable food production in a potential new industry.”

“This work that has been going on with the US Department of Agriculture for more than 15 years has now been translated into a sound economic investment proposition” said Chancellor Mone.

This facility will provide 12,600 square feet of teaching space and research space for aquaculture in the school. In this space, faculty and researchers will improve technologies in fish nutrition, indoor and recirculating aquaculture, aquaponics and vertical farming, and will also link to the SFS’s recent addition of an undergraduate certificate in Urban Aquaculture.

“This is a win for all – new investment, new jobs, training and a huge demand for new graduates as industry takes off. With it

should come additional investment in aquaculture and aquaponics research,” said David Garman, Dean of the School of Freshwater Sciences. “One key to this succeeding is training this new generation of fish farmers.”

This new program allows junior- and senior-level students, as well as professional audiences, to train and learn practical aspects of rearing fish in recirculating production systems. This new technology allows the repurposing of former industrial space to grow high quality food in large quantities, while at the same time reducing the environmental footprint of this industry.

Other applications to this program include biomedical and pharmaceutical research facilities, public aquaria and animal parks, and conservation and stocking of game and endangered species.

“With this technology, you can have aquaculture anywhere, so long as you have a good water supply, space to raise your fish, and a trained workforce” said Jhonatan Sepulveda Villet, Assistant professor and program director of the urban aquaculture certificate at SFS. “We will now have all three here in Milwaukee, thanks to this program.”

As water use and availability issues continue to develop throughout the country and beyond, it is clear that reducing the use of water will increasingly become a pressing need for food production systems. By reusing and recycling the water in the fish rearing systems, urban aquaculture will lead the field in sustainability. Additionally, by capturing the waste produced by the fish and using it as a high-quality fertilizer, what would be a problem instead becomes a promising solution in local food production in cities and communities. Will Allen from Growing Power, a community-based organization in urban Milwaukee, utilizes these same principles in collaboration with researchers of the School of Freshwater Sciences to grow fish and vegetables for local communities.

We have shown how at Growing Power on a smaller scale we can produce Yellow Perch and vegetables sustainably for the community and SFS’s expertise was a key to achieving this. This new training will enable the industry to grow and provide the skill base to make the industry succeed.”

As the public becomes more aware of the value in locally-grown, high quality food, urban aquaculture and aquaponics continue to increase in appeal to resolve the deficits in protein and fresh produce within inner city neighborhoods.

“We not only teach graduates”, said Fred Binkowski, lead aquaculture researcher at the School of Freshwater Science. “We have extended this as a STEM program in Schools throughout Wisconsin, as an undergraduate research program and in assisting Hunger Task Force.”

These efforts are now complemented with the new undergraduate and graduate programs in urban aquaculture offered at the School of Freshwater Sciences, which strives to educate a new generation of the aquaculture workforce.

This certificate program is the direct result of a UW System incentive grant provided to the School of Freshwater Sciences. The funding of the teaching laboratory was undertaken to provide a skilled workforce, the next generation of skilled aquaculturalists and to stimulate new investment, produce new jobs and establish industries. Based on positive interest generated, SFS will institute a condensed several week summer program targeting recent bachelor graduates, professionals, and anyone interested in furthering their aquaculture knowledge.

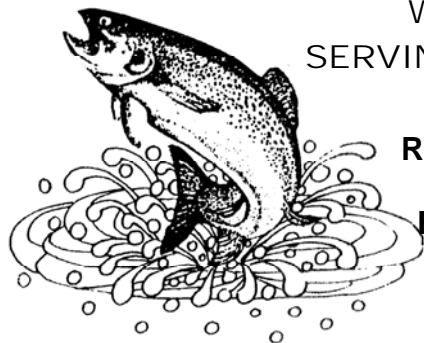
The mission of the UWM School of Freshwater Sciences is to train the next generation of freshwater professionals and to advance fundamental and strategic science to inform policy, improve management, and promote the health and sustainability of freshwater systems worldwide.

Contact Jhonatan Villet (sepulveo@uwm.edu) or visit www.uwm.edu/freshwater/.

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Waters of the US Updates

From Morning Ag Clips

Message sent: Waters of the U.S. Rule is unacceptable, should be scrapped

[http://www.fb.org/index.php?](http://www.fb.org/index.php?action=newsroom.news_article&id=293)

[action=newsroom.news_article&id=293](http://www.fb.org/index.php?action=newsroom.news_article&id=293)

WASHINGTON — “Members of the House today sent a strong, bipartisan message that the flawed Waters of the U.S. Rule is unacceptable and should be scrapped. Furthermore, it was refreshing to see members of Congress order regulators back to the drawing board, with an admonition to listen to the very real concerns of people who would have their farm fields and ditches regulated in the same manner as navigable streams.

“The way that the Environmental Protection Agency and

the Army Corps of Engineers drew up the WOTUS rule, it was more about regulating land than it ever was about protecting valuable water resources. Farmers and ranchers know all about the importance of protecting water, and they will continue to put that belief into practice. Through cooperative conservation measures, we have helped cut land erosion by more than 50 percent in just the last 20 years. We have reduced pesticide use and today use technology to apply just the right amount of fertilizer at just the right time. We look forward to a new water rule that recognizes the enormous work we have done, and honors the limits authorized by Congress and the Supreme Court.”

Published on May 13th, 2015—American Farm Bureau Federation

EPA Broadens Clean Water Regulations Industry groups and GOP lawmakers have lambasted Waters of the United States, which clarifies EPA authority under the Clean Water Act.

Federal protection of U.S. waterways and drinking water supplies (was expanded) Wednesday (May 27), (with) issuing a rule through the Environmental Protection Agency that also clarifies which rivers, streams, ponds and wetlands may be covered by the Clean Water Act.

The measure, known as the Clean Water Rule, has attracted intense opposition from fertilizer companies, the agriculture sector, energy producers and conservative lawmakers in Congress, who describe it as a “federal overreach” that will hamper economic growth and drive up costs for farmers and chemical producers.

The rule (previously ... referred to as “Waters of the United States.”) was proposed jointly last spring by the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers, “For the water in the rivers and lakes in our communities that flow to our drinking water to be clean, the streams and wetlands that feed them need to be clean *continued on page 14*

2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 18 Aquaculture Day - Statewide

The following will take place at Gollon Bait and Fish Farm, 5117 State Road 191, Dodgeville, day and time TBD

Sept WAA Board Meeting,
Sept WAIAC Meeting
Sept WAA Member Picnic

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WISCONSIN FARM VISITS

The end of April I made a trip to Wisconsin to meet with Kathy Foster to go over the treasurer responsibilities and turn over files and other items. I decided to stop at several farms on the way.

My first stop was Rushing Waters in Palmyra. If you are in the area, stop in and see the farm. Not only has Peter expanded his processing room, but he has also included more value-added products to his store. In addition to offering customers other seafood products, he now sells chowder, stew and bisque as well as salmon burgers and stuffed salmon pinwheels. The Trout House restaurant has been open for over a year with people driving out for a great meal featuring the farm's trout or stopping in at the bar.

Next was Gollon Bait and Fish Farm in Dodgeville. It was difficult getting some time with either Dave or Tim as it was the height of spawning, so I chatted with Dave Sr. He gave them a scare a few weeks earlier with a respiratory infection that required hospitalization, but was back to his duty of supervising the boys. I finally caught up with Tim in the hatchery where he had bell jars with walleye, sucker and other gamefish. During spawning, someone is always checking up on the eggs every few hours of every day.

The grand opening of both Nelson & Pade's new aquaponics facility and UW-Stevens Point Aquaponics Innovation Center was that Friday, so I stopped by there as well. The AIC is a great addition to the aquaculture research they are doing and will be able to focus on northern aquaponics for Wisconsin's climate.

Quiet Springs was my next stop. Mike Kelm had taken on a new job last year which took up a bit of his time, but this year he jumped back in perch production. He had lots of newly hatched fry in his indoor tanks. Mike has built most of his RAS equipment and his current project is a new processing room. This has proven to take longer than he anticipated as some of the regulations had changed before he was approved so he had to redo some aspects. He is now down to checking off and, meeting compliance requirements and filling out forms to be sent in.

My last farm stop was Wilderness Springs. I visited with Mike and Kathy, unfortunately I was unable to stop by the farm itself as the road was closed for repairs from earlier rains. Even though, as the crows flies (over the water) it was less than a mile from their house to the farm, it was about a 6 mile detour by car. I arrived late in the day and both Kathy and I had other meetings we were committed to the following day.

I wish I could have stopped in at more farms in my cross state & country trek, but by day 9 (and staying at a different location each night) I was ready to be back home.



Fresh made, quick frozen burgers, stews, chowders and bisques entice customers to Rushing Waters seafood shop



The outdoor patio was open for business but it was still a bit cool for outside dining



Above-Tim manages the farm's hatchery which keeps him busy with walleye, perch, bluegill, golden shiner, fathead, chubs, sucker, crappie, 1/s-mouth bass, musky, and northern eggs, below-a bell jar full of sucker eggs



MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 23



Above-one of several indoor tanks holding yellow perch fry, left-Mike in his processing room.



Waters of the US Update, continued from page 12

too," EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said in a statement. "Protecting our water sources is a critical component – which is why EPA and the Army have finalized the Clean Water Rule so we can strengthen our economy and provide certainty to American businesses."

More than 117 million Americans draw their drinking water from streams that may not be protected by the Clean Water Act. The law, enacted in 1972, granted the federal government broad powers to limit pollution in so-called "navigable" waterways like the Great Lakes and the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. A pair of Supreme Court Decisions in 2001 and 2006, however, muddied the waters, making it unclear whether the act also covered smaller bodies like groundwater, headwaters, streams and wetlands that feed those larger waterways.

Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., called the EPA measure "outrageously broad." "There is bipartisan agreement that Washington bureaucrats have gone beyond their authority and have no business regulating irrigation ditches, isolated ponds and other 'non-navigable' waters as waters of the United States," Barrasso said in a statement.

The Clean Water Rule reportedly upholds exemptions for agriculture. However, some tributaries that may be dry for prolonged periods but feed larger waterways when flooded will be covered by the new rule, federal officials said. Farmers must pay fees or obtain permits for work that may send polluted water into any body covered by the Clean Water Act.

EPA held more than 400 meetings with outside groups and received more than 1 million public comments about the rule.

Full article: <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2015/05/27/epa-expands-clean-water-regulations>



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Rules and Regulations Update

WDNR and the aquaculture industry has have been holding several meetings since reinstating the Aquaculture Working Group in 2011 to resolve regulatory and policy concerns.

At a recent meeting following up on the list of requested regulatory changes stemming from previous Listening Sessions, several issues including stocking, permitting, state bids, WPDES, NR19, Chapter 30 & 31, NR40, Great Lakes Compact were discussed.

Steps will be taken to alleviate these issues along with continued meetings for follow through. These include: Policy and rules will be better explained for both DNR staff and the industry to foster improved communications; making policy decisions more uniform and a better understanding the parameters of enforcement; investigation of a pathway to follow for implementing regulatory changes; DNR will continue working on the draft BMP Guidance to arrive at wording that is acceptable to both DNR and industry; and a fact sheet will be created that lists all rules, regulations, statutes pertaining to aquaculture.

The was a very positive meeting and the industry participants are looking forward to these steps in forging a better working partnership with the DNR.

Private Investments in Agriculture on the Increase

Google backs farm-focused startup as 'AgTech' blooms

<http://www.enca.com/technology/google-backs-farm-focused-startup-agtech-blooms>

Technology Wednesday 20 May 2015 - 11:48am

SAN FRANCISCO, US – Google on Tuesday pumped \$15-million into a farming-focused technology start-up, the latest in a surge of investment applying internet innovations to growing food.

The funding round led by Google's investment arm brings to nearly \$28m the total amount of money pumped into Farmers Business Network (FBN) by backers including powerhouse Silicon Valley venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers.

"Farmers are quintessential entrepreneurs; they are on their own and are mechanics, hackers, managers, animal specialists and more," FBN co-founder Charles Baron told AFP. "FBN connects the world's farmers together and allows them to share knowledge to farm better". "Farmers have been advising each other for generations; farmers get together at diners, coffee shops, co-ops, grain elevators," Baron said. "FBN taking that anecdotal conversation and backing it with data and putting it in a usable format online."

About \$2,36bn in venture capital was pumped in AgTech last year, compared to \$2,1bn investors poured into clean tech, according to Rob Leclerc, co-founder of AgFunder.com, a marketplace for AgTech investment.

Add into the mix cloud computing that lets rich analytics be handed quickly by data centres online and then pushed back to farmers' smartphones.

Feed the world

The agriculture market is a multitrillion-dollar behemoth, and also fits into social mindsets of some investors by involving ways to feed the world's growing population. The AgTech sector includes bio-plastics, biofuels, fish farming, genomics, getting fresh produce to shops without spoiling, and ways to use food waste.

Farmers are also being called on to produce more food on decreasing amounts of farm land, according to Baron, who left *cont. page 17*

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Meet our sales management staff:



Bob Robinson - *Director of Sales & Marketing - Fisheries Biologist*

- Started at Kasco in 1999
- Over 30 years of industry experience, with expertise in water quality, aeration & aquaculture applications
- Worked for Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management in Colorado, State of Wisconsin, Aquatic Eco-Systems & Purina-Rangen Fish Feeds
- Holds Bachelor of Science degrees in water resource management - fisheries & biology from UW-Stevens Point



Joe Holz - *Outside & International Sales*

- Started at Kasco in 2002 as inside sales & customer service support
- Helps customers in a wide area of uses & unique applications including aeration needs in backyard ponds, intensive aquaculture, golf & irrigation applications, water treatment & processing, mining, & lake front property management
- Worked at Rushing Waters Fisheries in Palmyra, Wisconsin in fish rearing, fish health, culling, sorting & processing
- Holds Bachelor of Science degrees in environmental science & geography from Carroll University



Andy Gillis - *Outside Sales*

- Started at Kasco in 2005
- Currently the product manager for de-icers & circulators
- Previous owner of an aquatic supply business where he was the aquaculture consultant & helped customers with aeration projects in ponds, lakes & open water
- Attended University of Maryland & Johns Hopkins University



Ken Rust - *Outside Sales*

- Started at Kasco in 2009, but previously sold Kasco products for more than 20 years working in the industry
- Currently the product manager for Kasco's Robust-Aire diffused aeration system
- Helps customers design proper aeration layouts for ponds & lakes to improve & protect the health of their ponds
- Holds a Master of Science degree in Aquaculture & Fisheries from LSU



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an energy technology job at Google in 2011. "I think information is the next big age for agriculture," Baron said. "It is about farming smarter."

Fighter Jets to Fish Farms - Lockheed takes a look at fish farming

By Christian Davenport and Amrita Jayakumar
March 20, 2015

http://tablet.washingtonpost.com/rweb/biz/from-fighter-jets-to-fish-farms-why-lockheed-martin-is-taking-on-climate-change/2015/03/22/b9dc654a37364c78b2a76486dd0261c3_story.html?tid=kindle-app

In the past few years, Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed has launched a series of new initiatives — harnessing energy from tides, purifying water, nuclear fusion, and, yes, a new, environmentally friendly way to farm fish in a cage that drifts off the Hawaiian shore.

The head of one of the world's most innovative fish farms sports a scruffy beard and talks about saving the planet by moving "toward a culture of nurture." His office is a trailer near the beach, where the views are of dolphins, the mission is progressive and the dress code is loose.

All of which makes Neil Sims's partnership with Lockheed Martin a most unusual corporate alliance.

To Neil Sims's surprise, one of those growth areas was his little Hawaiian fish farm.

"Really? This isn't a joke?" he said when a Lockheed Martin executive called to say that the 112,000-employee defense company wanted to team up with his five-person outfit.

Sims's company, Kampachi Farms, had been developing a fish cage that looks like a giant ball. Unlike other farms stationed inland, the "mobile fish pen," as it is called, drifts farther offshore in

deeper water, where it can "grow fish with literally no footprint on the oceans," Sims said.

Lockheed's contributions are less about biology and more about technology, including setting up the satellite communications and the motor controls to help track the pen..

From Morning Ag Clips

Vilsack announces new private funds to make investments in rural America

Published on April 30th, 2015

Move opens the door to multibillion-dollar trade sanctions

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the launch of two new private funds, known as Rural Business Investment Companies (RBICs), which make equity investments in rural businesses, helping them grow and create jobs. This announcement is part of USDA's ongoing efforts to help attract private sector capital to investment opportunities in rural America to help drive more economic growth in rural communities.

"These two new private funds will provide innovative small businesses throughout rural America access to the capital they need to grow and create jobs," Vilsack said. Rural Business Investment Companies will allow us to facilitate private investment in businesses working in bio-manufacturing, advanced energy production, local and regional food systems, improved farming technologies and other cutting-edge fields."

Innova Memphis and Meritus Kirchner Capital can now begin raising capital to constitute their funds. Once the funds have been raised, these companies will make equity investments in rural businesses with high-growth potential.

The new funds announced today were formed under the USDA's Rural Business Investment Program (RBIP). USDA is utilizing RBIP to license funds to invest *continued on page 18*



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Private Investments, continued from page 17

in enterprises that will create growth and job opportunities in rural areas, with an emphasis on smaller enterprises. Working through the USDA program enables licensed funds to raise capital from Farm Credit System banks and associations.

Last year, Secretary Vilsack announced the creation of the [first new RBIC](#) which has already begun investing in rural businesses with high-growth potential. The \$10 billion [Rural Infrastructure Opportunity Fund](#), also announced last year, facilitates private loans for job-creating rural infrastructure projects across the country.

These efforts are part of the Made in Rural America initiative to help rural businesses and leaders take advantage of new investment opportunities and access new markets abroad.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdamediafb?contentid=2015/04/0118.xml&printable=true&contentidonly=true>

—USDA

USDA Financial & Business Opportunities

Guide to value-added grant funding

Guide provides clear info on the program's application requirements

Published on May 11th, 2015

Rest of story <https://www.morningagclips.com/guide-to-value-added-grant-funding/>

WASHINGTON —The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) is releasing a new, updated version of its [Farmers' Guide to Value-Added Producer Grant Funding](#).

The Guide provides clear information on the program's application requirements, including a step-by-step description of the application and ranking processes. The Guide is available for free on the NSAC website: <http://sustainableagriculture.net/publications/>.

Administered by USDA Rural Development, the VAPG program since 2001 has provided competitive grants to producers and producer groups to acquire working capital or to fund business and marketing plans, as well as feasibility studies needed to establish viable value-added businesses.

—National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

Check with your local FSA Office to determine which of these loans may apply to your operation

Microloans Available for Small and Mid-Sized Operations

Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds farmers that microloans up to \$50,000 are available to beginning, small and mid-sized farmers using a simplified application process with up to seven years to repay. Microloans are part of USDA's continued commitment to small and midsized farming operations.

To complement the microloan program additional changes to FSA, eligibility requirements will enhance beginning farmers access to land, a key barrier to entry level producers. FSA policies related to farm experience have changed so that other types of skills may be considered to meet the direct farming experience required for farm ownership loan eligibility. Operation or management of non-farm businesses, leadership positions while serving in the military or advanced education in an agricultural field will now count towards the experience applicants need to show when applying for farm ownership loans. Important Note: Microloans cannot be used to purchase real estate.

Please review the FSA Microloan Program Fact Sheet

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?>

[ar-](#)

[ea=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=pfs&newstype=prfactsheet&ype=detail&item=pf_20141107_farln_en_microln.html](#)

or program application, eligibility and related information.

Beginning Farmer Loans

FSA assists beginning farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can *continued* provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 year
 - Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
 - Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's average size farm.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center or <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/index>

Tips on Applying for these loans

While it is every applicant's responsibility to read the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), here are some highlights that may interest you.

You must submit your paper application by July 7, 2015 or if you plan on using Grants.gov the application has to be submitted by midnight EST on July 2, 2015 or it will not be considered for funding that may be announced in a subsequent Notice. Paper applications must be postmarked and mailed, shipped or sent overnight by July 7, 2015. You may also hand carry your application to one of our field offices, but it must be received by close of business on the deadline date.

The maximum grant amount for a planning grant is \$75,000 and the maximum grant amount for a working capital grant is \$250,000.

Application materials are available at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_VAPG.html. You are encouraged, but not required to utilize the Application Toolkits found at the same web site. The tool kit list all required forms and has an electronic links to these forms. The application toolkit provides additional instruction to help you to respond to the scoring criteria.

Please note that the revised final rule has been published at the same time as the notice of funding availability. Some of the changes include provisions that were required as a result of the 2014 Farm Bill and program clarifications based upon comments that were received on the interim rule. There have been many definitions that have been clarified, changed or removed. You will want to spend some time looking over the new definitions and make sure that your application is addressing these changes. Some of the more critical changes include:

The definition of an Agriculture Producer has been revised to clarify that individuals or entities that may have ownership and/or financial control without being engaged in the day to day labor and management will not be eligible for a value added producer grant.

It has been clarified that the agency will not accept any revisions or additional information after the stated *cont page 19* application deadline of July 7th 2015 for paper application and July 2nd 2015 for applications submitted through grants.gov. Note changes to the scoring criteria. These include changes to the priority points. These changes were made as a result of the 2014 farm bill.

Due to the timing of the notice there will not be any reserve funds in the 2015 program. An eligible applicant will be able to request the priority points and will compete for the total funding of approximately 30 million dollars.

Continued on page 19

USDA Opportunities, continued from page 18

If you have questions, please contact me at mike.daniels@wi.usda.gov or call 715-345-7615 ext. 155 or 5417 Clem's Way, Stevens Point, WI 54482. Mike Daniels

Wetland Reserve Easement Program

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking applications from Wisconsin landowners for its premiere wetland restoration program, the Wetlands Reserve Easement (WRE). Applications are accepted year-round for funding.

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) was established by the 1990 Farm Bill. The 2014 Farm Bill realigned WRP, now called WRE and is under the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). Wetland restorations are a popular, cost-effective, and ecologically successful voluntary wetlands restoration program. WRE is a great opportunity for many landowners.

WRE provides financial incentives to help farmers restore cultivated areas that were once wetlands and make them fully functioning wetlands again. This year, Wisconsin NRCS received almost 2.5 million for wetland restoration.

How WRE Works: Generally, any land that was originally wetland, but was drained for cropping, is eligible. Cropland, as well as some non-cropped areas, may be enrolled in the program as long as the drainage – usually ditches or tile drainage systems – is removed. You may apply for a permanent easement, which pays you 100 percent of the appraised agricultural land value or a 30-year easement, which pays 75 percent. You maintain ownership of the land, access, and responsibility for taxes. Public access is not required on WRE land. WRE is a popular and compet-

itive program and only those that have the highest environmental benefit will be selected.

Contact your local USDA NRCS Service Center for more information or visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wi/home/>

Socially Disadvantaged Group Grants USDA Seeks Applications for Grants to Help Socially-Disadvantaged Rural Residents


WASHINGTON, May 26, 2015 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is now accepting applications to provide technical assistance to socially-disadvantaged groups in rural areas.

"These grants will help socially-disadvantaged business owners develop the tools and skills they need to grow their enterprises and succeed at creating jobs and expanding economic opportunities in rural areas," Vilsack said. "American agriculture is becoming increasingly diverse in many ways, with more minorities and women seeking to enter the field, as well as greater diversity in the age of farmers, the size of operations, in production methods, and in the types of crops being grown. All of these forms of diversity help strengthen U.S. agriculture for the *cont page 20* future."

USDA plans to make up to \$3 million in grants available. The maximum award under this notice is \$175,000. More information on how to apply can be found on page 28937 of the May 20 [Federal Register](#). Applications submitted by mail must be post-marked by July 20, 2015. Electronic applications must be submitted at www.grants.gov no later than midnight Eastern Time July 14, 2015.

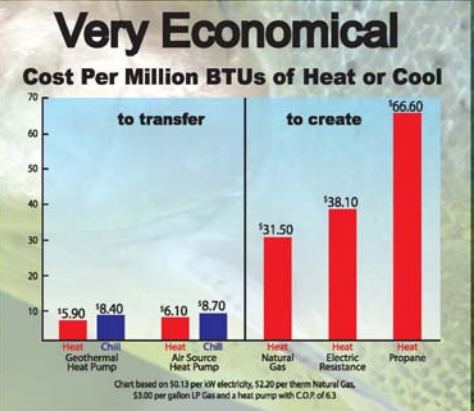
Eligible applicants include groups of cooperatives, cooperative development centers and individual cooperatives that serve socially-disadvantaged groups. *Continued on page 20*

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Agricultural Producers in Wisconsin Still Have Time to Apply for Direct Farm Ownership Loan Program

Low-Interest Loans Can Help Producers Start or Expand Farms

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wisconsin Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced that farmers and ranchers still have time to apply for low interest loans available through the FSA direct farm ownership program. Applications must be approved by Sept. 30, 2015, to take advantage of the funding available.

Eligible farmers and ranchers can borrow up to \$300,000 to buy farmland, construct or repair buildings, pay closing costs, or promote soil and water conservation. The interest rate can be as low as 1.5 percent with up to 40 years to repay.

New farmers and ranchers, military veterans, and underserved farmers and ranchers also are encouraged to apply. Each year Congress targets 80 percent of available loan funds to beginning and targeted underserved farmers and ranchers. Targeted underserved groups include American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians, or other Pacific Islanders, Hispanics and women.

For more information about farm loan, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans, or contact your local FSA office. To find your local FSA county office, visit <https://offices.usda.gov>

WTO Issues Ruling on COOL Labeling, Federal Legislators Consider Response

From Morning Ag Clips, Published on May 18th, 2015

U.S. loses WTO appeal in labeling dispute

WASHINGTON — The United States has lost a battle with Canada and Mexico over its meat labeling rules, the World Trade Organization said on Monday in a ruling that backed calls to scrap the laws or risk costly trade retaliation.

The WTO panel said the United States must *continued* bring its country-of-origin labeling (COOL) into line with global trade laws, rejecting the nation's appeal against an earlier ruling that the requirements illegally discriminate against imported livestock.

The move opens the door to multibillion-dollar trade sanctions against the United States, although U.S. lawmakers have signaled they plan to act to repeal the rules as early as this week.

— Krista Hughes, Reuter

Read the full article <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/18/usa-meat-idUSL1N0Y90SL20150518>

Continued

Still Time to Fix COOL?

Daniel Looker

05/19/2015 @ 1:25pm Business Editor

http://www.agriculture.com/news/policy/still-time-to-fix-cool_4-ar48899

“It’s very likely Congress will have all summer to develop a COOL fix,” Grassley said. Representatives of the Canadian government and the meat-packing industry have told Grassley that having a generic North American label of origin would fix the problems cited by the WTO, he said.

“At a minimum, it’s likely we will end up with a voluntary cool program,” Grassley said. Grassley didn’t rule out eventually voting for repeal of COOL if he can’t get support for a broader label or voluntary programs.

From Ag NewsWire

\$145,000 Up for Grabs: Farm Bureau Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge

The American Farm Bureau Federation announced applications for the Rural Entrepreneurship Challenge will be accepted beginning June 1 through June 30. Entrepreneurs will compete for \$145,000 in startup funds. The challenge, now in its second year, provides an opportunity for individuals to showcase ideas and business innovations being cultivated in rural regions of the United States. It is the first national business competition focused exclusively on rural entrepreneurs working on food and agriculture businesses. [http://wfbf.com/ag-newswire/145000-up-for-grabs-farm-bureau-rural-entrepreneurship-challenge/?](http://wfbf.com/ag-newswire/145000-up-for-grabs-farm-bureau-rural-entrepreneurship-challenge/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Ag+Newswire+May+8&utm_content=Ag+Newswire+May+8+CID_d076983324a6170e36480a01419727c0&utm_source=Ag%20Newswire&utm_term=Read%20more)

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NCRAC Seeks Statements of Interest for Aquaculture Projects

The North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) is seeking Statements of Interest from qualified individuals to address three different aquaculture research topics specific to the twelve states of the North Central region (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin). Statements of Interest are due June 1. The NCRAC's Board of Directors has:

- Authorized up to \$160,000 for a 2-year project on enhancing the ability for on-farm preparation of medicated fish feeds within the North Central Region. This project is to reduce the time between veterinary prescription and on-farm availability of veterinary-feed directive medicated feed, specifically for the antibiotics florfenicol and oxytetracycline dihydrate.
- Authorized up to \$160,000 for a 2-year project on a comprehensive outreach and training program to expand development of North Central Region aquaculture in the North Central Region of the United States.
- Authorized up to \$70,000 for a 2-year project to strengthen the state associations within the North Central Region.

For in-depth research topic information please visit <http://www.ncrac.org/>. Please note: Anyone planning to submit a Statement of Interest must contact Dr. Joe Morris, NCRAC Director, to obtain information about the submission process. Contact Dr. Morris at telephone number (515) 294-5280, fax (515) 294-2995, or e-mail jemorris@iastate.edu.

Full story at: [Newser](#)

USDA says standards for organic seafood coming soon, but could be years before its available

Standards for organic seafood coming this year, USDA says
By MARY CLARE JALONICK | Associated Press | Apr 16, 2015
11:41 AM CDT in [Politics](#), [Health](#), [Lifestyle](#), [Science](#), [Money](#)

WASHINGTON (AP) — After more than a decade of delays, the government is moving toward allowing the sale of U.S.-raised organic fish and shellfish. The Agriculture Department says it will propose standards for the farmed organic fish this year. That means the seafood could be available in as few as two years.

Organic seafood would be welcome news for the increasing number of organic shoppers — and for retailers that have profited from their higher prices. It also could help the U.S. farmed fish industry find a premium as it struggles to compete against cheaper imports.

Among the seafood that is commonly farm-raised in the United States and would be covered: salmon, tilapia, catfish, shrimp and mollusks such as mussels, oysters and clams.

The United States is "trying to play catch-up on organic aquaculture," says Miles McEvoy, who heads up USDA's organic program. The European Union and Canada, along with other countries, have been exporting their own organic products to the United States.

Retailer Wegmans already is selling organic seafood imported from Norway and elsewhere. Other retailers, such as Whole Foods, say they will wait for the U.S. rules before *Continued*

Organic Standards Coming Soon, continued

they sell seafood labeled organic.

It's still unclear if U.S. standards can be successful. Many in the farmed fish industry say they expect that the requirements for fish feed may be so strict as to be financially prohibitive.

The discussions have been marked by tensions over what organic fish should eat and whether some of them can be raised in ocean cages called net pens. USDA's McEvoy says the new rules will be based on a series of recommendations from the government's National Organic Standards Board over the last decade.

Some environmental groups criticize the recommendations for suggesting that at first a quarter of the fish feed could be from sustainably wild-caught — but not organic — fish. A fish can't be organic, they argue, if it doesn't eat 100 percent organic feed.

Wild fish would not be eligible for the organic label — that would be too difficult to monitor. For producers, the main concern would be the availability of organic feed.

Breeding organic fish to feed the organic fish could be prohibitively expensive, and organic grains such as soybeans and canola that can make up fish feed also are also costly. Some fish feed includes poultry or other land animal byproducts, but that would likely be prohibited, as would most synthetic ingredients.

Such concerns are familiar in the organic industry, which is facing widespread ingredient shortages.

"It continues to raise the challenge that organic producers and suppliers are now confronting — whether there is going to be an adequate supply of feed," Agriculture Secretary *continued on pg 22*

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Organic Standards, continued from page 21

Tom Vilsack said of organic aquaculture after addressing an organic industry conference this week.

Even if some companies do take steps to grow organic fish, the process could potentially stretch beyond two years. The National Organic Standards Board, which advises USDA's National Organic Program, is still reviewing some vaccines, vitamins and other substances considered essential to aquaculture.

Linda ODierno of the National Aquaculture Association says that despite some of the challenges, the industry is hoping that organics could help consumers feel more confident in U.S. product that is often already more expensive than seafood produced cheaply abroad. "It could be good for industry and good for consumers," she said.

BITS & PIECES

2nd ed. of the Quick Desk Reference Guide to: Approved Drugs for Use in Aquaculture available

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP) Program will soon be releasing the 2nd Edition of the Quick Desk Reference Guide to: Approved Drugs for Use in Aquaculture.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has granted several new drug approvals since publication of the 1st edition, and the 2nd edition reflects all of these important advances in fish health management.

Thanks to generous contributions from external partners, AADAP will be able to produce and ship 2,000+ of the 2nd edition to our partners across the country.

If you are interested in receiving the new Desk Reference booklet, please contact Ms. Niccole Wandeleaer (niccole_wandeleaer@fws.gov) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership (AADAP) Program 4050 Bridger Canyon Road Bozeman, MT 59715 www.fws.gov/fisheries/aadap

Purdue and USDA Release 2015-2020 Food, Agriculture, Renewable Natural Resources and Environment Job Opportunities Report

During the next five years, U.S. college graduates will find good employment opportunities if they have expertise in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, or the environment. Between 2015 and 2020, the report authors expect to see ,900 average annual openings for graduates with bachelor's or higher degrees in those areas.

According to their projections, almost half of the opportunities will be in management and business. Another 27% will be in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Jobs in sustainable food and biomaterials production will make up 15%, while 12% of the openings will be in education, communication, and governmental services.

The report authors expect employment opportunities in food, agriculture, renewable natural resources, and environment occupations to grow more than 5% between 2015 and 2020 for college graduates with bachelor's or higher degrees.

The complete report : <https://www.purdue.edu/usda/employment/>

THE COOK'S CORNER

Quick Baked Panfish

Taken from Healthy Dishes with Wisconsin Fishes

5 scaled filleted fish, rinsed
1 can cream of onion soup
1 Tbl. milk
1/2 stick butter, melted
1 Tbl. lime juice
3/4 cup crushed sour cream and onion potato chips
Salt & pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350

Mix soup & milk in bowl. Dip fillets in mixture and place in an 11x7" baking dish coated with cooking spray. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Combine butter and lime juice, pour over fillets, top with crushed potato chips

Bake uncovered for 17-20 minutes or until fish flakes easy with fork.

FROM NAA

UN-FAO Reports World Aquaculture Production Exceeds Wild Fishery Landings

The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UN-FAO) reported in their biannual *Food Outlook* report that "the global seafood industry in 2014 was characterized by sustained high prices for many important species, and...the shift towards relatively greater consumption of farmed species compared with wild fish hit a milestone in 2014, when the farmed sector's contribution to fish food supply overtook that of wild fish for the first time." Additional highlights in the report include:

Overall fish production is estimated to have grown by only 1% to 164.3 million tonnes, boosted by a 5% expansion of aquaculture to 74.3 million tonnes, which compensated for a 2% contraction in wild fish output to 90.0 million tonnes.

Despite a surge of export revenues by developed countries in the last quarter of 2014, developing countries continue as front-runners in the expansion of fish trade, earning USD 78.7 billion through exports in 2014, 6.3% more than in the previous year.

According to the FAO Fish Price Index, prices were up by 5% in 2014, sustained by strong increases of farmed fish prices, which gained 12%, while prices of captured fishes were barely changed.

Consumer demand for fish remains strong, with more people worldwide appreciating the health benefits of regular fish consumption. Direct human consumption, which accounts for more than 85% of all fish uses, is now projected to grow by 2% to 147.5 million tonnes.

To download or read the complete report, visit <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4581e.pdf>. The Fish and Fishery Products analysis begins on page 66.

A record year for specialty food

4/9/2015 - by Monica Watrous

http://www.foodbusinessnews.net/articles/news_home/Business_News/2015/04/A_record_year_for_specialty_food.aspx?ID={6E4B6091-C1D4-46F7-9FF7-950F93BBC4E8}&cck=1

NEW YORK — Specialty food sales surpassed \$100 billion for the first time in 2014, with retail and food service sales totaling \$109.5 billion, according to the Specialty Food Association, Mintel International and SPINS/IRI. Retail sales of specialty food hit a record \$85.5 billion, while food service sales of specialty food reached \$24 billion in 2014.

Claiming 15% share of the total food market in 2014, specialty food is defined as products of premium quality that may be made by small or local manufacturers, feature ethnic flavors or contain the best available ingredients.

Retail sales of specialty food grew 19% from 2012 to 2014, well ahead of the 2% increase for all food, but the market's growth has slowed slightly since rebounding post-recession, likely due to its maturity, the Specialty Food Association said in its 2015 state of the industry report. Food service sales, which account for 22% of specialty food dollars, have grown nearly 31% between 2012 and 2014, while retail sales rose nearly 20%. The report measured sales of specialty food through mainstream, natural and specialty food channels, excluding private label sales and sales through Trader Joe's and Whole Foods Market stores.

Fifty-one of 58 specialty food and beverage segments grew from 2012 to 2014. Fifteen segments now exceed \$1 billion in annual sales, including cheese, coffee, meat, poultry and seafood, chips, pretzels and snacks, candy, and yogurt.

"The time is now for specialty food," said Ron Tanner, vice-president of philanthropy, government and industry relations for the Specialty Food Association. "Consumers are looking for new tastes, foods with fewer and cleaner ingredients, health attributes, and products that are made by companies with values they care about. All of these define specialty food."

Cheese leads the specialty food market with \$3.7 billion in sales, followed by coffee, coffee substitutes and cocoa (\$3.5 billion), which has surpassed the category of frozen and refrigerated meat, poultry and seafood (\$3.2 billion) in sales since the previous report. Bread and baked goods, with \$2.4 billion in sales, has bumped yogurt out of the top five categories, and nuts, seeds, dried fruits and vegetables debuted in the top 10 with \$1.3 billion in sales in 2014. Unit sales of specialty food grew nearly 14% from 2012 to 2014.

The fastest-growing categories in terms of unit sales were refrigerated pasta and pizza sauces, which grew 78% since 2012, refrigerated pasta (53%) and eggs (53%). Functional beverages, nut and seed butters and energy bars and gels also posted notable gains.

"Local" remains an important claim for specialty food products, and "non-G.M.O." is expected to be the top natural or ethical claim in the next three years, according to the report. Emerging trends in the category include smoked flavors, pickled products, seaweed, beets, and Mediterranean, Indian and Thai cuisines.

But while a bright spot in the U.S. economy, the specialty food industry faces its share of challenges. The biggest business threats for manufacturers, according to the report, include deep discounting by competitors, non-G.M.O. verification requirements and continuing litigation around health claims.



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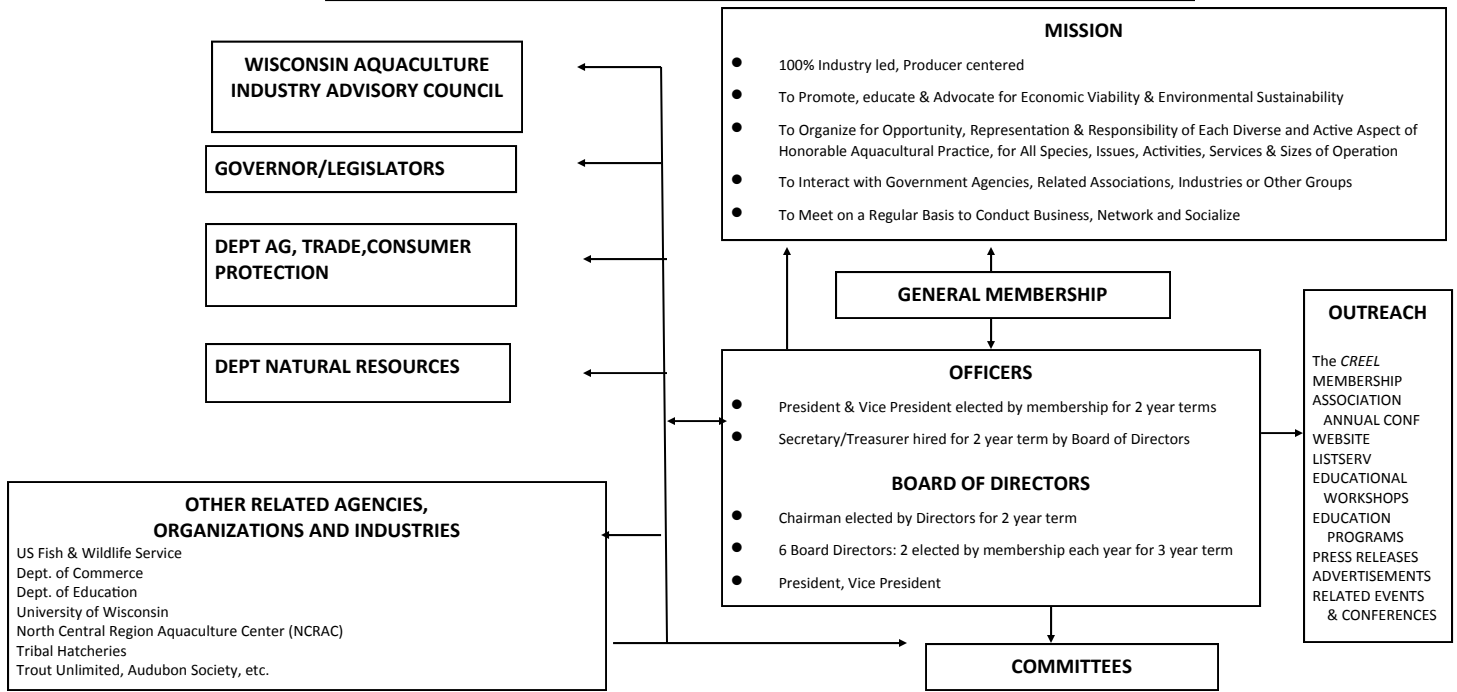
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