



State of Wisconsin  
Governor Scott Walker

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**Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection**  
Ben Brancel, Secretary

July 9, 2013

Domini Bean  
Office of Information Management  
Food and Drug Administration  
1350 Picard Dr., PI50-400T  
Rockville, MD 20850

The Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council appreciates this opportunity to comment on the proposed rules for the Food Safety Modernization Act Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption (Docket No. FDA-2011-N-09203).

The Organic Advisory Council is a private sector group composed of organic farmers as well as representatives of organic processors, certifiers, consumers and non-profits. This council is a standing council of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection and works by partnering with state and federal agencies in the support of the organic agriculture sector in the state.

The Council appreciates the efforts that have been made to address the issues of small scale producers in development of the law. We have one comment on the rules:

- The primary concern we have with this rule is with regard to the requirement that farmers who grow seed that is sold as feed to register as a food facility with FDA. We feel that this would place an unnecessary burden on the thousands of grain farmers who sometimes sell grain to other farmers for feed. It is unclear to us why such sales of grain for animal feed are included in a rule which is focused on the safety of human food. We recommend that this category of farms and their sales of feed grain be exempted from the registration rule.

We commend the Food and Drug Administration for being responsive to the concerns of organic farmers, especially small scale operations, and we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed modifications to the Food Safety Modernization Act.

Sincerely,

Harriet Behar  
Co-Chair, WOAC  
Education Coordinator for MOSES

Jerry McGeorge  
Co-Chair, WOAC  
Director of Cooperative Affairs  
Organic Valley

cc. Secretary Ben Brancel, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection

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