

## **WI AQUAPONICS MULTI-AGENCY SUPPORT GROUP**

April 9, 2013 Conference Call

WISLINE Call Facilitator – WDNR Chris Lilek

**Participants:** Chris Lilek-DNR, Carol Nagel-USDA-FSA, and Amy Basel-DATCP

The purpose of this call was to continue our discussion how Federal, State and County regulatory, funding & technical assistance staff can support aquaponic farming in Wisconsin.

**Future purpose:** We want to be able to offer local aquaponics contacts an easy to use method of getting Federal, State & County regulatory, funding and technical assistance in the future.

To further this purpose we have scheduled on-going conference calls to update ourselves on the latest regulatory, funding and technical assistance available to local contacts and then get this information out to the local contacts and aquaponic associations as efficiently as possible.

We want the aquaponics industry to succeed and grow in Wisconsin.

The next conference call is scheduled for **June 11, 2013 – 10 - 11:30am**

**Conference call in number:** (630) 424-2356, Passcode 6550 444#

### **TOPICS DISCUSSED:**

EDUCATION

TALENT

TECHNOLOGY

ECONOMICS

RESOURCE

FARMS & SUPPLIERS

INSPIRATION

### **EDUCATION**

Education options are expanding into many different areas:

UW-Stevens Point is hosting the International Aquaponics Conference, June 19-21, 2013 which is in support of the International Aquaponics Society that focuses on commercial aquaponics. Registered individuals are coming from 5 different countries and 11 different states. More information can be found at:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/conted/ConfWrkShp/Pages/AquaponicsConf.aspx>

### **TALENT**

Counties and individuals are establishing **Market Kitchens** to help small farmers collect, process, market & sell their crops and livestock.

Check these examples out:

<http://www.wi.innovationkitchen.org/>

[http://lacrossetribune.com/vernonbroadcaster/news/local/food-enterprise-center-raises-flag-and-declares-it-s-open/article\\_c16b6ad8-1e1a-11e2-8ecf-001a4bcf887a.html](http://lacrossetribune.com/vernonbroadcaster/news/local/food-enterprise-center-raises-flag-and-declares-it-s-open/article_c16b6ad8-1e1a-11e2-8ecf-001a4bcf887a.html)

<http://watertownfarmmarketkitchen.com/>

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### **TECHNOLOGY**

The group will ask Jesse Hull & Molly Stanek – Imagine Aquaponics, Greater Milwaukee, Wisconsin to join us on a call in the future. They do commercial scale aquaponics applications, research & development, with a primary focus on creating and establishing highly productive and cost effective urban food production facilities.

### **ECONOMICS**

Loans

Carol Nagel FSA-USDA reported that aquaponics businesses have applied/inquired about microloans in the past couple months. Estimating production and expenses for each unique system is difficult. Many of the business have combined different aquaponics systems. At best, the yields and expenses are being estimated by averaging a range from similar operations across the nation and in other nations. Carol is now assigned to four counties in Wisconsin: Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee and Waukesha.

### **RESOURCES**

Action Item: DNR will work on furthering aquaponics education of regulatory field staff. Chris Lilek & Mark Aquino –DNR will continue to work on this effort.

Amy is half way done getting 2000 plus fish farm renewal license out. DATCP has to date issued over 2000 fish farm registrations. The DNR fish hatchery license renewals have been sent to Dave Giebtbrock - Statewide Fish Production Manager at Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources . Once the license renewals are completed, Amy will send us a list of active fish farms in the state to the DNR as done in previous years. The fish farm licenses do not collect information pertaining to plants, but does request information about the species of fish and fish farm activities that applicants have/ will have in the next year. The food safety side of things may have the information on aquaponics and plants/fish raised.

### **AQUAPONIC FARMS & SUPPLIERS**

Demonstration

Sweet Water Urban Farm, Milwaukee, WI  
Nelson and Pade, Inc., Montello, WI 53949

Pilot Projects

Grow Local LLC, Neenah, WI

Family Farms

Natural Green Farms, Racine WI

Production Farms

Central Greens LLC Milwaukee WI  
Sweet Water Urban Farm, Milwaukee, WI  
Growing Power, Milwaukee, WI  
Aqua Terra Farms, Bristol, WI  
Future Farm, Baldwin, WI  
KP Simply Fresh, North Freedom, WI  
Nelson and Pade, Inc., Montello, WI 53949

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### Suppliers

Nelson and Pade, Inc, Montello, WI, [www.aquaponics.com](http://www.aquaponics.com) offers complete aquaponic system packages, growing supplies, training and technical support to prospective and existing aquaponic growers.

<http://aquaponics.com/page/aquaponic-systems>

[http://www.indianafishfarming.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&catid=34%253Aworkshops&id=54%253Asuppliers&Itemid=66](http://www.indianafishfarming.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&catid=34%253Aworkshops&id=54%253Asuppliers&Itemid=66)

<https://www.was.org/shopping/shopdisplaycategories.asp>

### INSPIRATIONS

<http://aqua.wisc.edu/Waterlibrary/Default.aspx?tabid=426>