

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

March 12, 2013 Conference Call

WISLINE Call Facilitator – WDNR Chris Lilek

**Participants:** Mark Aquino & Chris Lilek-DNR, Carol Nagel & Kimberly Iczkowski-USDA-FSA, and Brandi Richter-NRCS

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 monthly 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 April 9, 2013 - Chris Lilek will ask participants what time is best.**

**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>

Nelson and Pade, Inc. offers numerous workshops, a Job Shadow program and an Extended Stay Learning Program. Details are available at: <http://aquaponics.com/page/workshops-and-training>

Nelson and Pade, Inc., offers workshops and training courses on aquaponics and controlled environment agriculture. Rebecca Nelson and John Pade have been doing aquaponics since the early 1990's and controlled environment agriculture since the mid 1980's. They have had individuals from 30 countries and 29 US states attend their training programs.

Carol Nagel & Chris Lilek attended the WAA Conference on March 1 & 2, 2013

[http://www.wisconsinaquaculture.com/Events\\_Details.cfm?RID=40](http://www.wisconsinaquaculture.com/Events_Details.cfm?RID=40) in Pewaukee, WI. Fish Farm businesses have started to think about (and add) aquaponics systems to their Fish Farms. One such business is: Rushing Waters (Trout Farm), Palmyra, WI <http://www.rushingwaters.net/>.

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### **TALENT**

Greg Fischer at the UW Stevens Point Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility -

<http://www.uwsp.edu/cols-ap/nadf/Pages/default.aspx> email: GFischer@uwsp.edu, phone: 715-779-3461 and

Scottie Sandstrom - Executive Director, Bayfield County Economic Development Corporation -

[www.bayfieldcountyedc.com](http://www.bayfieldcountyedc.com) email: [scottie@bayfieldcountyedc.com](mailto:scottie@bayfieldcountyedc.com), phone: 715-209-4589 are working

together to draft a regulatory fish farm model example (general permit), which could be used to get preapproval for specific locations in Wisconsin. This would help attract potential fish farm investors and interests in Wisconsin.

### **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 two aquaponics businesses have applied for larger loans this past month. She will provide us with more details, once the loans have been reviewed.

### **RESOURCES**

Action Item: DNR will work on furthering aquaponics education of regulatory field staff. The call participants agreed that DNR staff visits to aquaponic farms such as Nelson & Pade, Sweet Water, KP's Simply Fresh, and others would be the best way to learn about the current aquaponics industry. Chris Lilek & Mark Aquino – DNR will work on this effort. An alternative training method suggested was having the aquaponics business staff come to the DNR with a video of their facility and then answer questions after DNR staff view the video.

Chris Lilek attended the March 7-9, 2013 Aquaponics training at Nelson and Pade and shared our Multi-Agency Support Group action items and contacts with the participants. The participants “clapped loudly”, when they hear that the regulatory & agency staff were working together to support the growth of the aquaponics industry.

### **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

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### Production Farms

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

### 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

New Alchemy Farm – West Allis, Wisconsin would like to invite our group to visit their farm in the near future.

**James Godsil** will contact them and schedule a day & time convenient for them.