

For Immediate Release
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Assemblymember Yamada Holds First Hearing of Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Select Committee

Focus on how the state can play a more active role in encouraging organic and sustainable practices

SACRAMENTO, CA – Assemblymember Mariko Yamada (D – Davis), Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Organic and Sustainable Agriculture, will hold the first in a series of hearings that will investigate the barriers to sustainable and organic agricultural practices in California and the role it can play in mitigating climate change.

“Organic farming is now the fastest growing sector in U.S. agriculture. As organic products have grown in popularity, so too has the interest on the impact our farming methods have on our health and environment,” said Assemblymember Yamada. “As the leading organic producer in the nation with more than 430,000 acres, California has a responsibility to examine the issues surrounding this burgeoning industry.”

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2011

3:00 p.m.

California State Capitol

Room 444

Assemblymember Mariko Yamada (D – Davis)
Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Craig McNamara, President, State Board of Food and Agriculture
Representative from the United States Department of Agriculture

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines organic production as a practice that seeks to integrate cultural, biological, and mechanical practices in order to foster recycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity. The National Organic Program (NOP) develops, implements, and administers national production, handling, and labeling standards, while the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Organic Program is responsible for creating and enforcing standards specifically for California organic agriculture.

For more information on the select committee and organic production in California, visit www.assembly.ca.gov/yamada.

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