



1



# United States National Organic Program Update

Mark Bradley, Chief

Accreditation, Auditing & Training Branch
National Organic Program



## **NOP Organization**

National Organic Program (NOP)

Standards
Development and
Review Branch

Accreditation,
Auditing &
Training Branch

Compliance & Enforcement Branch

3

#### **Program Overview**



The National Organic Program (NOP) develops, implements, and administers national production, handling, and labeling standards for organic agricultural products. The NOP also accredits certifying agents (foreign and domestic) who inspect organic production and handling operations to certify that they meet USDA standards.

- NOP-AQSS ("Access")
- NOP Reading Room
- NOP Newsroom
- National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)

# **NOP-AQSS (Access)**

Answers to Questions about (NOP) Standards from (NOP) Staff

Web access to uniform responses to questions on program standards and policy.

Drop down menus arranged by subject.



About AMS Newsmoom Op,

 $\nu u$  are here: Home / National Organic Program / NOP  $\lambda$ 

#### National Organic Program

#### Welcome to NOP-AQSS ("Access")

What is NOP AQSS2 - **Answers to Questions on (NOP)** Standards by NOP Staff

Using the drop down menu below, select a topic related to your question(s). If you are unable to find the answer you are looking for, please e-mail your question to NOPAQSSIGUEDA.cov.

"MOTE: Please keep your e-mails as brief as possible."

Two factors that may delay a response to your question:

- If a recommendation is needed from the NOSB or NOP believes that collaboration with the NOSB is needed on this issue, a response will be posted stating this. A final answer will be tabled until further input is received from the NOSB and the NOP adds; or,
- If your question involves ongoing rulemaking, or a charto the current regulations, a response will be posted in "riding room stating this. Your answer will be based "rijons, acknowledging that when rulemaking" in mey change.

# **NOP Reading Room**

- Lists of certified operations
- Appeals decisions
- Accreditation audit reports
- Fact sheets
- Publications



#### **NOP News Room**

News Releases and Program Announcements

Federal Register Notices

Court Decisions

Additional Announcements



# National Organic Standards Board (NOSB

- New Member Barry Flamm
  - Environmentalist
- Next Meeting
  - May 20-22, 2008
  - Baltimore, Maryland



HE CONT



### Accreditation/Recognition

- 55 domestic certifying agents
- 40 foreign certifying agents
- 8 recognition agreements

British Columbia Denmark India Israel New Zealand Quebec Standards Council of Canada United Kingdom









### Standards Activity

- Equivalence negotiations with Canada
- Pasture requirements for ruminants
- Dairy herd replacement requirements
- Aquaculture standards development
- Final Rule 38 materials
- ANPR for Sunset of 12 materials from National List published March 14, 2008

# Federal Docket Management System

www.regulations.gov

#### Submit or view public comments





## **Training Activity**

- Cooperative Training Series
  - Certifier Training Louisville, Kentucky
    - In cooperation with ACA and NASOP
  - ACA Training Nuremberg, Germany
    - Sponsored by OTA
  - ACA Training All Things Organic
    - Sponsored by OTA
- NOP Auditor Training Fredericksburg, VA
  - 1-week Advanced Auditor Training
- On-line Training Resource Development



### Recognition of Materials Reviews

- To date, certifiers were required to conduct their own reviews of name-brand pesticides and fertilizers.
- Certifiers may now accept other certifiers reviews of inputs.
- Competent third-party reviews recognized if accepted by certifiers
- Certifiers must still approve use.





14