



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

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May 2, 2019

TO: USDA-Accredited Certifying Agents

FROM: Jennifer Tucker, Ph.D.
Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program (NOP)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Tucker". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over the printed name and title of the sender.

SUBJECT: Organic Integrity Learning Center Launch

To support the ongoing development of personnel working in organic certification and compliance and enforcement roles, the National Organic Program (NOP) has launched the Organic Integrity Learning Center. The Learning Center is a formal Learning Management System, that supports the professional development and continuing education of professionals working to protect organic integrity.

Well-qualified and trained certifier staff, including inspectors, and reviewers are critical to maintaining organic integrity. These professionals stand at the center of effective organic control systems, and directly impact fair and consistent organic certification around the world.

Certifiers are responsible for communicating the availability of the Learning Center to their staff, including in-house and contracted inspectors and reviewers. To track individual training records, all Learning Center users must have unique accounts and passwords. In April 2019, NOP registered the lead and secondary contacts for all NOP certifiers; we are providing this information to certifiers with a link to this memo.

The flyer [How to Sign Up for an Account \(pdf\)](#) provides instructions for group sign-up if you wish to register a group of people. You can also instruct your team and your contracted inspectors to request individual accounts using instructions in the flyer. People with accounts can access the Learning Center at: usda.blackboard.com/.

Examples of current courses in the Learning Center include: Fundamentals of Inspections, Import Oversight Essentials, Compliance and Enforcement, Sound and Sensible Certification, and Introduction to the USDA Organic System. New courses will be added on a regular basis. Upcoming courses will include Dairy Compliance, Materials Review, Certification Administration, and Residue Sampling and Testing.

The Organic Integrity Learning Center was launched to help organic professionals protect organic integrity and provide fair and consistent organic certification around the world. Certifier leadership will play a critical role in ensuring their teams access and use this new resource.