

STATEMENT

by

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Administrator, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

Regarding the National Organic Program

June 10, 2002

"The USDA intends to fully implement the National Organic Program in October 2002. The Department is not considering changes to the program as has been inaccurately suggested by some.

"The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 recently passed by the Congress requires a study be conducted to examine grain issues as they relate to the National Organic Program. The USDA has contracted with Iowa State University to survey grain producers and dealers in Midwestern States to ascertain planting and harvesting intentions for the years 2002-2004.

"The USDA will continue to work diligently to ensure responsible implementation of the National Organic Program later this year. The Congress has established the criteria for this program and the USDA intends to implement and administer the new program as it has been detailed to date."