



Livestock and Seed Program Audit, Review, and Compliance Branch Quality System Audit Report

Applicant: Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ)
Program : National Organic Program/Accreditation for Organic Certification Organizations – 2004 Annual Update
Location(s): Pennington, NJ
Audit Date(s): May 18 – October 4, 2004
Audit File Number: NP4139FA
Action Required: No
Auditor(s): Phil Frederick
Contact & Title: Erich V. Bremer, Certification Administrator
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AUDIT ACTIVITIES

On various dates from May 18 – October 4, 2004, a representative of the USDA, AMS, LS, Audit Review and Compliance (ARC) Branch conducted a review of annual update documents submitted by Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey (NOFA-NJ) to verify continued compliance to the USDA, AMS 7 CFR Part 205 National Organic Program (NOP). Erich Bremer, Certification Administrator of NOFA-NJ submitted requested information on several dates of the review period. ARC Branch Checklist 1025C was used as a basis for determination for compliance to the NOP Rule.

Information submitted by NOFA-NJ included:

- Current Fee Schedule
- New forms – Producer Application/Update Acknowledgement & Handler Application/Update Acknowledgement (forms included an area for Estimate Fee cost for the client)
- Estimated certification for 2004: Crops=45, Crops & Livestock=12 , Crops & Wild Crops=5 and Handling Operations=6
- Program forms and policies updates
- List of Inspectors
- List of current Certification Committee (CC) Members
- List of the current Board of Directors (BOD)
- A list indicating annual conflict of interest statements for personnel involved with the certification decision. Also individual documents provided for a Board Member waiting to be approved by the BOD
- One crop, one crop & livestock producer, one crop & wild crop producer and 3 handler/processor files that included inspections reports and certification decisions
- List of certified operations
- Annual performance evaluations for CC Members, five inspectors, and the Certification Administrator

FINDINGS

The files and information submitted by NOFA-NJ for the 2004 Annual Update Report complies with the NOP requirements. However one non-compliance remains outstanding (NP2296GA.NC3) pending the acceptance of the OMRI list as an accepted reference by the NOP. The non-compliance NP2296GA.NC3 was updated to a Major non-compliance (from report (NP4040GA)). No new non-compliances were found during the review. The audit documentation is on record for review (**NP4139FA Audit Doc NOFA-NJ Pennington NJ 10 04 04**).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of this review the auditor recommends continued approval of NOFA-NJ as an accredited certifying agent. NOFA-NJ should provide corrective actions to address the outstanding non-compliance in a time frame established by the NOP Program Manager.