



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

**Applicant:** Monterey County Certified Organic (MCCO)  
**Program :** National Organic Program – Corrective Action Report to the 2003 Annual Update  
**Location(s):** Desk Audit  
**Audit Date(s):** January 2, 2004  
**Audit File Number:** NP3140MA  
**Action Required:** No  
**Auditor(s):** Miguel A. Caceres  
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### AUDIT ACTIVITIES

On January 2, 2004 a representative of the USDA, AMS, LS Audit, Review, and Compliance Branch conducted a review of the corrective action proposal submitted by MCCO, Salinas, CA. The corrective and preventive action proposal was in the form of replies to questions via electronic mail (*NP3140MA CA Proposal MCCO Salinas CA 01.02.04*). A review was conducted to verify that the submitted corrective action proposal adequately addressed the non-compliance identified in the 2003 Annual Update Report (*NP3140MA Annual Update Report MCCO Salinas CA 06.17.03*).

### FINDINGS

The corrective action proposal adequately addressed the non-compliance identified in the 2003 Annual Update Report.

**NP3140MA.NC1 (CIP) Adequately Addressed – Section 205.662(a)** When an inspection, review, or investigation of a certified operation by a certifying agent or a State organic program’s governing State official reveals any noncompliance with the **Act or regulations in this part**, a written notification of noncompliance shall be sent to the certified operation. *The MCCO Certified Organic Handbook; page 59 contains the California Organic Products Act of 2003. This document requires that operations register with the state and pay registration fees. Products cannot be marketed as organic unless the operation is registered. This appears to be an additional requirement and since MCCO is not a recognized state program with additional requirements this in non-compliance with the Final Rule. The COPA of 2003 may contain other additional requirements and should be reviewed by a representative of the NOP.*  
**Submitted Corrective Action:** The COPA was removed from the MCCO Certified Organic Handbook, new copies printed and provide to clients.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that MCCO remain accredited as a certifying agent of the USDA, National Organic Program. Implementation of the corrective action should be reviewed during the next on-site visit or the next submission of the Annual Update Report.