



1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 3071-S, STOP 0201
Washington, DC 20250-0201

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY VARIANCE APPROVAL

Joanie Quinn
Education Coordinator
New Mexico Department of Agriculture - Organic Program
4001 Indian School NE, Suite 310
Albuquerque, NM 87110

OCT 14 2011

Dear Ms. Quinn:

On September 2, 2011, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) received a request for a temporary variance from the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations §§205.237(c)(1,2) and 205.239(a)(2), submitted by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture - Organic Program on behalf of ruminant livestock producers located in several drought stricken New Mexico counties. The basis for establishing this variance for these New Mexico counties is documented severe drought conditions. The Department has reviewed the recommendation for a temporary variance for organic ruminant livestock producers according to NOP regulation requirements in §205.290. Based upon the submitted documentation, the request for temporary variance from §§205.237(c)(1,2) and 205.239(a)(2) is granted, with restrictions, and is in effect for the remainder of 2011.

The temporary variance from §§205.237(c)(1,2) and 205.239(a)(2) is restricted to organic ruminant livestock producers in the following New Mexico counties: Catron; Cibola; Curry; De Baca; Roosevelt; San Miguel; and Socorro. In addition, during the grazing season, producers having access to irrigated pasture shall provide not more than an average of 85 percent of a ruminant's dry matter demand from dry matter fed. Dry matter fed does not include dry matter grazed from residual forage or vegetation rooted in pasture.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact Robert Pooler, Regional Accreditation Manager, at (202) 720-3252 or bob.pooler@ams.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David R. Shipman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

David R. Shipman
Acting Administrator