

USDA AMS
Room 4007-S
AgStop 0275
P.O.Box 96456
Washington, DC 20090-6456

Re: USDA - National Organic Standards — Docket # TMD-94-00-2

Dear People:

I am writing in reference to the proposed national standards published December 16, 1997. I am quite unhappy with the proposed watering down of what "organic" currently means to consumers like myself. I find it incredibly disturbing that the following could be labeled as "organic:"

- Food Irradiation - Using radioactive nuclear wastes to "kill bacteria" and prolong the shelf life of food products.
- Genetic Engineering - Using genetic engineering to produce foods.
- Factory Farming - Using inhumane, intensive confinement, factory farm style production methods on farm animals.
- Toxic Sludge - Spreading toxic sewage sludge and industrial wastes, so called "biosolids," on farmlands and pastures where animals graze and food is grown.
- Animal Cannibalism - Feeding back diseased and waste animal body parts, offal, and blood to farm animals, a practice that has led to Mad Cow Disease in Europe.

I believe that most consumers interested in eating as healthily as possible in our modern world would choose to avoid these practices. Most current state and group certification standards actually prohibit such production methods. If the USDA does not intend to specifically prohibit these objectionable practices in its final standards and resubmit new proposed rules that conform with the recommendations of the National Organics Standards Board, I feel that it would be in the best interest of the natural foods industry, including consumers like me, for the USDA to drop its entire proposed standards program and maintain the current standards.

Sincerely,