DECISION ON ACCREDITATION

Audit, Review, and Compliance Branch Audit Information	
Applicant	Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
Date	May 21, 2004
Audit Identifier	NP3090OA

Congratulations. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) has accredited you under the National Organic Program. This accreditation allows you to certify **crop and handling** operations to the USDA's National Organic Standards. Your accreditation is conditional, subject to satisfactory resolution of the following conditions:

___☒__You must resolve, by a date certain and to the satisfaction of USDA, any deficiencies identified during an initial site evaluation.

___☐__You must submit, within 120 days, evidence that you have replaced the certification standards submitted in your application with the National Organic Standards. You may not rewrite, modify, or otherwise alter the National Organic Standards.

___☐__You must submit, within 120 days, evidence that you have revised all certification guidance documents, policies, and procedures employed under the National Organic Program to reflect implementation of the National Organic Standards.

Note: Guidance documents may be used to assist clients in complying with the National Organic Standards where those standards allow site-specific flexibility in application. Guidance documents are recommendations and are not binding on the client.

___☐__You must submit, within 120 days, evidence that you are in compliance with the National Organic Program's conflict of interest provisions by submitting documentation demonstrating that all responsibly connected individuals are either not subject to the National Organic Standards or have been or will be certified by another USDA-accredited certifying agent.

Note: Certifying agent members not involved with management of the organization (budget, personnel, contracting, program evaluation, and administrative policies and procedures) will not be considered to be responsibly connected parties or subject to section 205.501(a)(11)(i). Such members will, however, be subject to the conflict of interest provisions of section 205.501(a)(11)(ii).

___☒__Other noncompliance as stated in the audit report to follow by mail.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTATION WITHIN 120 DAYS WILL RESULT IN INITIATION OF PROCEDURES TO SUSPEND OR REVOKE YOUR ACCREDITATION. If you have any questions, do not wait until the 120 days are up; contact our offices as soon as possible and someone will assist you. (The NOP office number is 202-720-3252.)

Please sign and date below, acknowledging your receipt of this letter, and return by fax to: Richard Mathews, Program Manager, NOP/USDA-AMS, 202-205-7808 (fax). Because of delays with the U.S. Postal Service following the events of September 11, 2001, we urge you to use facsimile or overnight mail service.

_____ Name/Title

_____ Date