

### **USDA Organic Policy Updates**

**National Organic Standards Board** 

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San Antonio, TX

**Mark Lipson** 

Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Policy Advisor

**USDA-OSEC-MRP** 

Mark.lipson@osec.usda.gov



### **USDA Organic - Big Picture**

- Dept.-wide integration, beyond NOP
- Congressional drivers
- **2010 Strategic Plan Goal (+25%)**
- OSEC Policy Advisor
- USDA Organic Working Group
- USDA Organic Literacy Initiative
- Secretary's Departmental Guidance



### Secretary's May 2013 Guidance

- •Five areas of organic integration:
  - Regulatory reciprocity w/in USDA
  - Research
  - Data
  - Training and Outreach
  - Encouraging growth of sector
- Organic Working Group teams for each area.



## Secretary's May 2013 Guidance: Reciprocity w/in USDA

•Focus is on coordination of NOP requirements with NRCS conservation program requirements.



## Secretary's May 2013 Guidance: Data Collection

- Master data inventory
- Support for expanded int'l trade codes
- Collation of stakeholder data needs

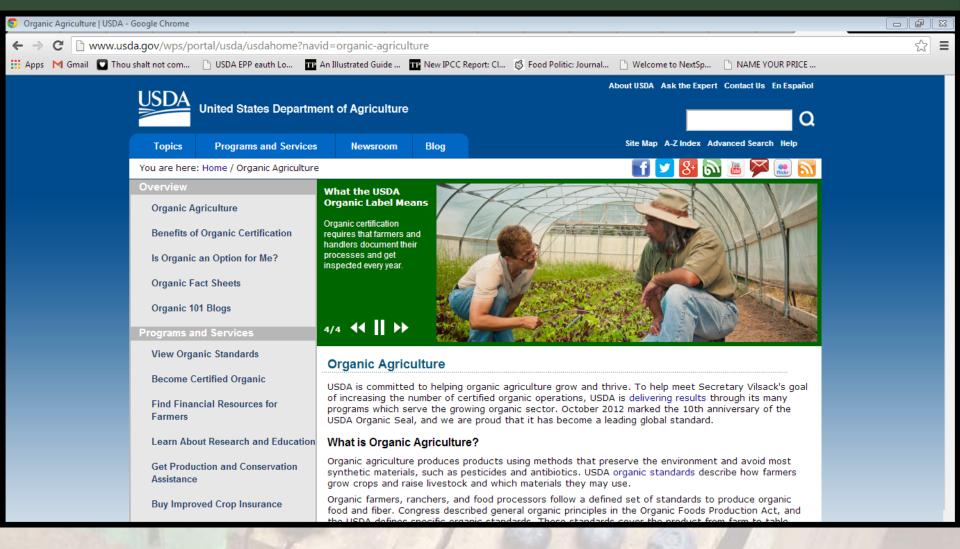


# Secretary's May 2013 Guidance: Training and Outreach

- New USDA Organic Topic Page
- Updated Organic Resource Guide
- Continue Organic Literacy Initiative

#### United States Department of Agriculture Organic & Sustainable Agriculture Policy







## Secretary's May 2013 Guidance: Growth of Organic Sector

- On-line "town hall" discussion
- Collation of transition resources



### Secretary's May 2013 Guidance: Research

- •Assessment by OWG of NOSB 2012/13 research priorities recommendations.
- •Review of NOSB doc by NIFA, ARS, ERS and NRCS, with NOP's Dr. Lisa Brines.
- Comments and recommendations of OWG team go to USDA research programs and also feed back to NOSB.
- Will be posted with minutes of this mtg.



## OWG Research Team Comments to NOSB: Highlights

- •Whole farm systems, antibiotic alternatives, methionine alternatives, livestock herd health all continue to be prioritized by OREI. Strength of proposals is a concern.
- Board should provide more specific info on questions about aquaculture and GE vaccines.



### 2014 Farm Bill!

- •Restores funding for Organic Research and Extension Initiative (\$20M/yr)
- Restores and increases National Certification Cost-share (\$11 Million/year)
- Restores Organic Data Initiative (\$5M)
- Organic Crop Insurance mandate
- Organic Research and Promotion"Checkoff" exemptions and options



#### **THANK YOU!**

Mark Lipson
USDA Organic Policy Advisor

mark.lipson (at) osec.usda.gov

(202) 720-4256