



National Organic Program

NOP Compliance and Enforcement Division (C&E) Overview and Update

ACA Meeting
January 15, 2013
Orlando, Florida



The Purposes of Enforcement



To protect the integrity of the organic standards so as to facilitate commerce

- Maintain consumer confidence
- Ensure a fair market for the great majority of organic operations that operate in compliance with the law

C & E: What We Do

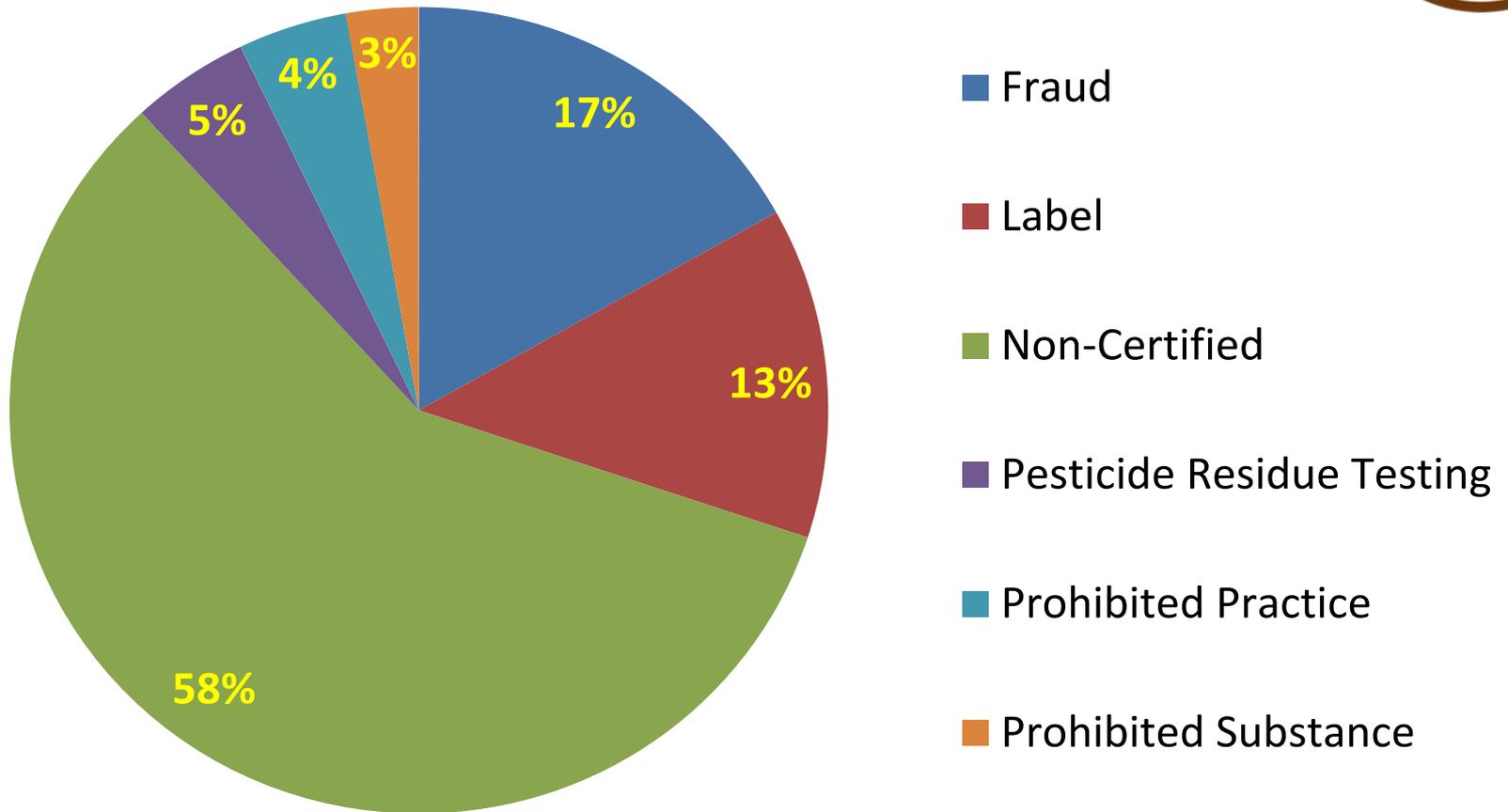


- Investigate complaints, work with operations to achieve compliance where possible and take enforcement actions as appropriate

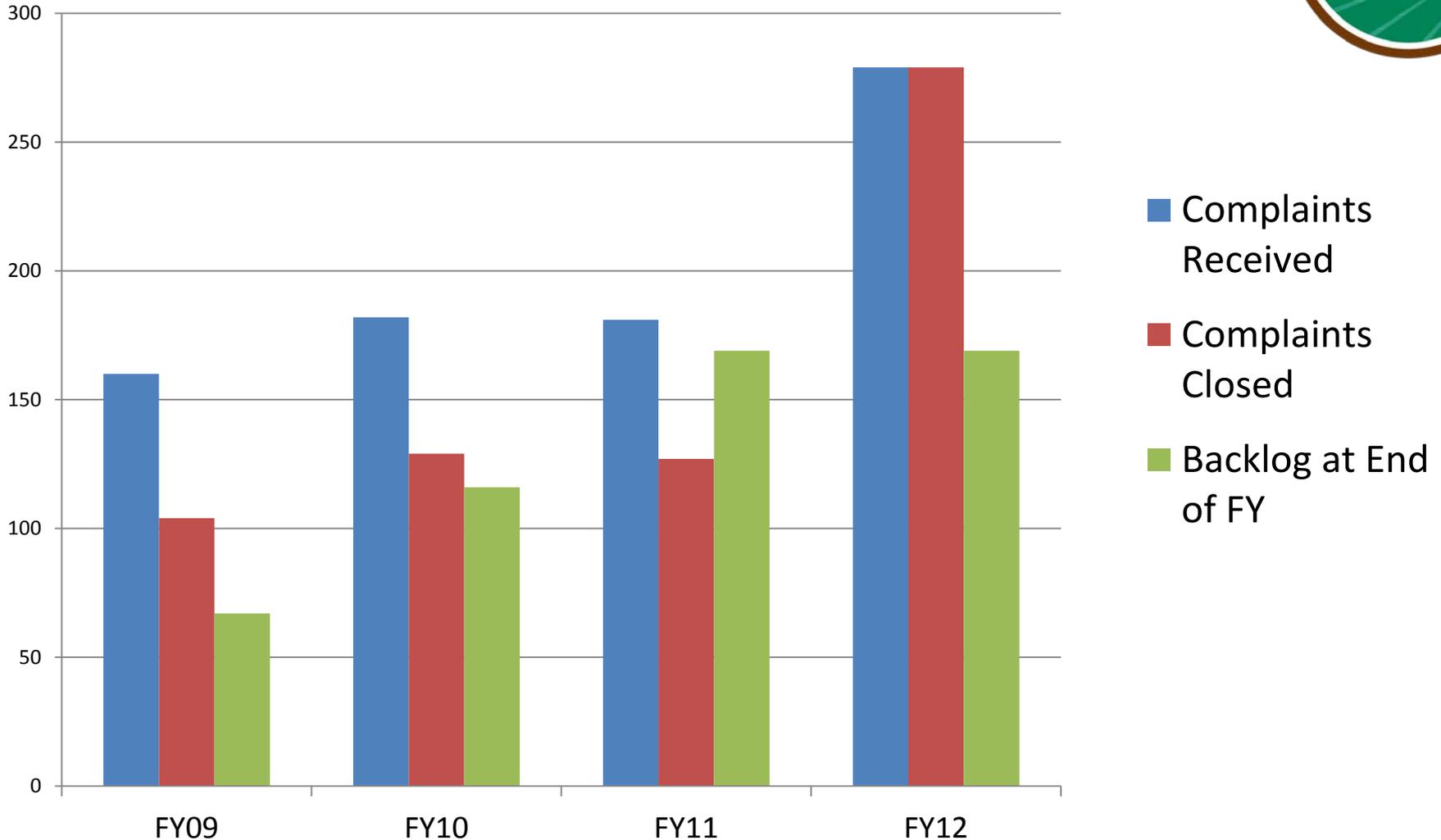
We also:

- Represent the NOP in appeals of adverse actions
- Work with ACAs, State Programs and Federal partners on enforcement of the OFPA and the USDA organic regulations

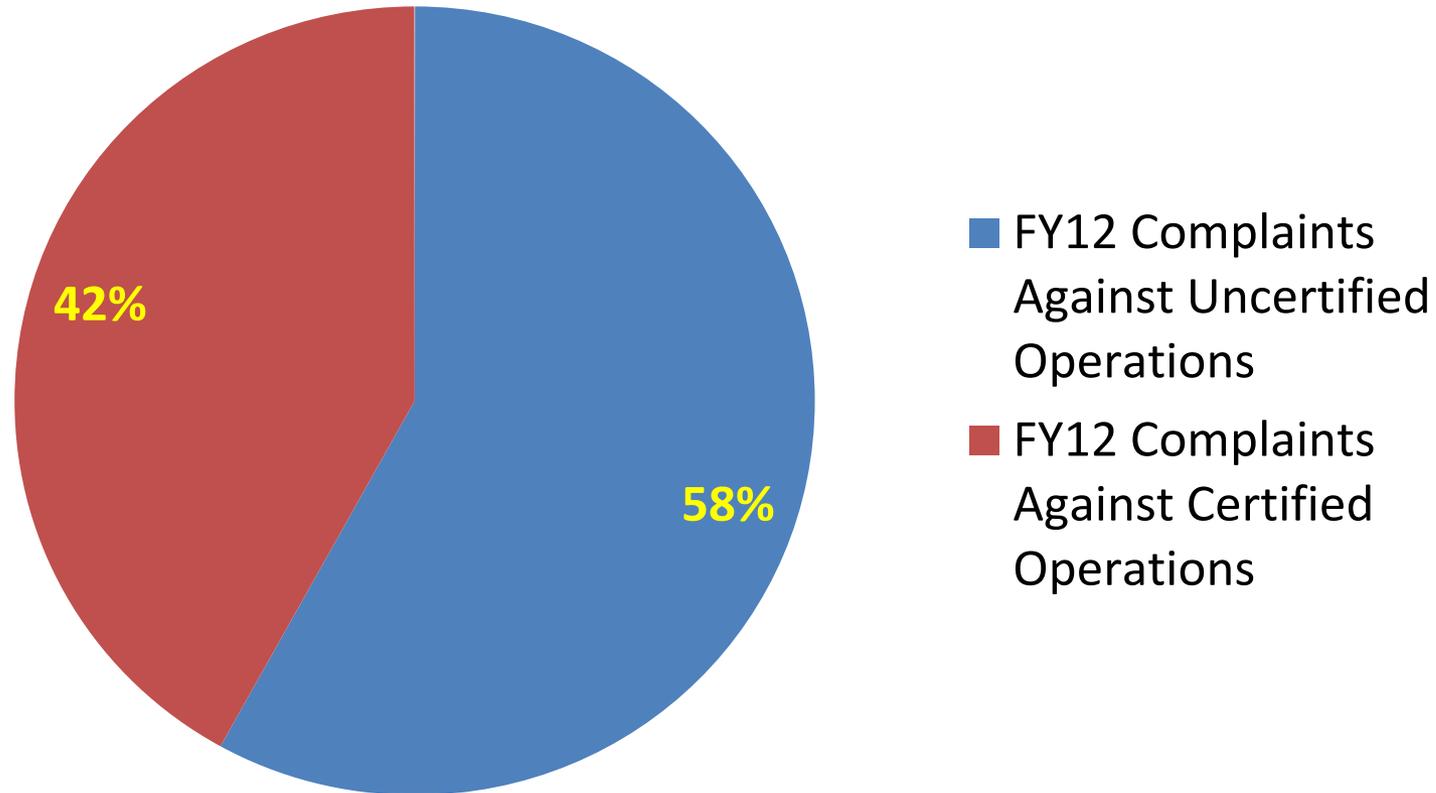
Complaints by Type: FY12



Complaint Trends: FY09-FY12



ACA investigations



- FY12 Complaints Against Uncertified Operations
- FY12 Complaints Against Certified Operations

Civil Penalties



Year	Number of Penalties	Total
FY10	8	\$62,000.00
FY11	9	\$25,500.00
FY12	9	\$127,000.00
FY13 (so far)	3	\$34,500.00

Criminal Fraud Cases



- Harold Chase – Conventional corn sold as organic
- Peter Townsley – Fertilizer containing prohibited substances sold as an approved input
- Kenneth Nelson – Fertilizer containing prohibited substances sold as an approved input

Questions?



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