Accreditation and International Activities Division Update

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January 31, 2017
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National Organic Program
Overview

• Organic INTEGRITY Database

• Improvements for Efficiency

• Performance Evaluations
Organic Integrity Database

• Update on INTEGRITY Achievements:
  • We have 2016 operation data from all certifiers – Thank You!
  • Users continue to give positive feedback about INTEGRITY
  • New server has dramatically improved speed for users

• To maximize value of data, please consider providing acreage and livestock head data: This will support future USDA reporting at county/state levels for different commodities.
While many certifiers are doing well on data quality, we are seeing some common issues.

Examples of problems:

- Duplicate records: Certifier did not use the same NOP ID this year as last. *Once an NOP 10-digit ID is assigned, it must stay the same.*

- Item level lists are too vague: “Various Vegetables” is too broad to be useful to database visitors. **Please consider moving to NOP taxonomy for categories and items, or be more specific in listings.**
2017 Focus: Data Quality

• Examples of problems, continued:
  – Mismatched Scopes and Items: Items are not correctly matched to scope. Example: Dairy listed as Item under the Crop Scope. **Item level data must match the correct scope.**
  – Missing Scopes: Hundreds of operations have Items listed, but no Scopes selected. This limits user searches. **Selecting the correct scopes for each operation will help improve user search.**
  – Addresses: We still see problems with addresses not matching correct category (e.g., PO Box under physical location – should be mailing address). **Check addresses for your operations.**
2017 Focus: Frequency of Updates

• When you issue a final suspension or revocation, update the certification status of the operation!

• Monthly updates of suspended, revoked, and surrendered operations will maintain organic integrity across the marketplace.
Improvements for Efficiency
Technology Initiatives

Accreditation System: NOP is Getting a New Database!
- Streamline AIA’s processes and workflow
- Manage audit scheduling, report generation and certifier contacts
- We are automating our checklists

Certifier Information Submittal
- Tool will make it easier for certifiers to send information to NOP: corrective actions, annual reports, adverse actions
- NO new technology investments will be needed for certifiers
Performance Evaluations
Performance Evaluations

• Performance Evaluations – Field Evaluation component

• To address input received and potential options, the NOP is developing a revision of NOP 2027 Personnel Performance Evaluation
Performance Evaluations

• Inspector’s Annual Performance Review
  – Field evaluations involve evaluating inspectors while they are conducting inspections and is considered the most effective method to assess inspector performance.

• Each inspector should be subject to a regular field evaluation.

• Field evaluation system
  – Developed using best practices, such as a risk-based approach or another approach sufficient to determine inspector competency
Resources

• If you would like to ask a question about using INTEGRITY, or you have a comment or suggestion, please email us at INTEGRITY@ams.usda.gov

  • How to Upload a File tip sheet
  • Frequently Asked Questions for Certifiers

• All other questions contact you Accreditation Manger or email us at AIAlnbox@ams.usda.gov