Accreditation and International Activities Division Update

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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.

2017 Focus: Data Quality

- 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 AIAInbox@ams.usda.gov