



Introducing “The Path to Sound and Sensible Organic Inspections” Training Program

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USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program





- At last year's training, certifiers provided input on topics important in training organic inspectors
- We took your ideas and created a new interactive training program: The Path to Sound and Sensible Organic Inspections
- Target Audience: Certifiers and Inspectors

Today's Goals



- Introduce the training program
- Follow a scenario from the interactive program
- Suggest exercises to accompany training
- Summary of next steps

<http://willinteractive.com/play/the-path>



Introducing the Training Program



- Video-based “choose your own adventure” training – publically available on the web
- Length: Approximately 1 hour total
- Follows an organic inspector through an annual inspection with an organic farmer
- Teaches sound and sensible inspection principles in a practical and engaging way
- Shows what happens when the inspectors makes the right choices and what happens when a better choice could have been made

Training Topics

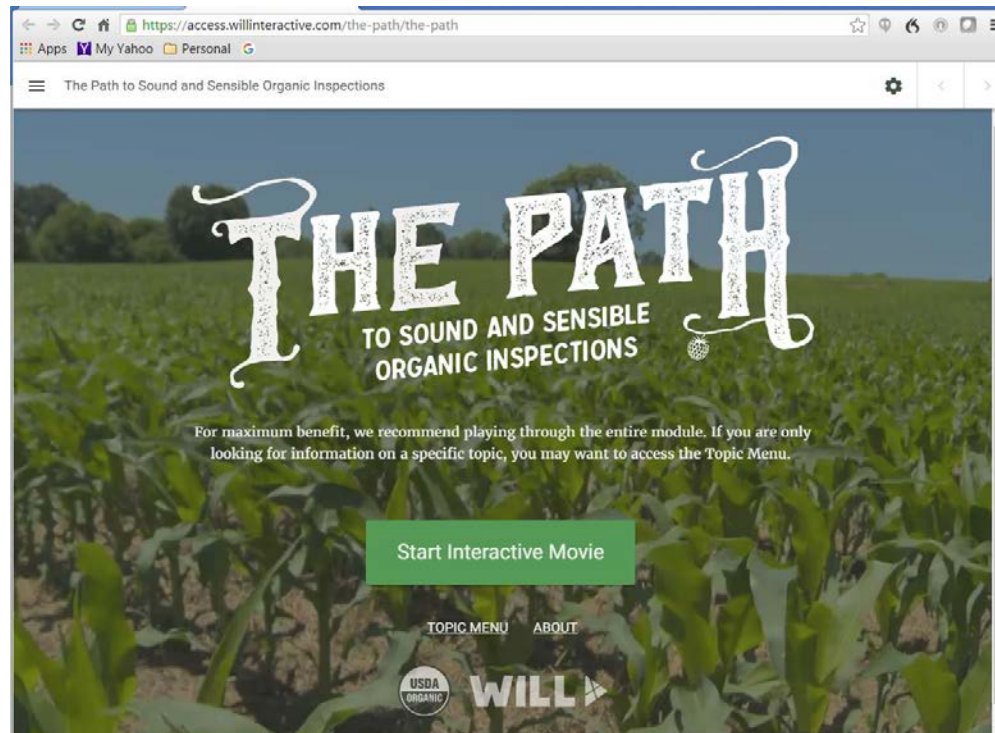


- Conducting an Opening Meeting
- Conducting a Farm Tour
- Finding Discrepancies with Organic System Plan
- Finding a Problematic Boundary
- Collecting Samples
- Selecting and Reviewing Records
- Conducting Audit Trail Exercises
- Conducting an Exit Interview
- Conducting an Unannounced Inspection

Let's Take a Closer Look



- The Path to Sound and Sensible Organic Inspections



Let's Take a Closer Look



- Form groups of approximately 4 people
- Look at Handout labeled “Appendix A”
- As a group, review the 8 Issue Areas – these are some topics the training covers
- Write down the possible regulatory citations involved, and any next steps you would take as a certifier
- You have **20 minutes** for this exercise

How to Use the Training



- Require staff and inspectors to complete training as part of continuing education
- Use during group training to discuss inspection scenarios
- Provide supplemental homework to verify completion by remote staff and to test knowledge

Sample Exercises



- Ask trainees to create an inspection report based on the training using your inspection report template – did they catch all the issues in the video?
- Ask trainees to list all the issues they observed, along with regulatory citations and possible next steps
- See handout, “Overview and Training Guide” for more details on possible exercise designs

Summary of Next Steps



- Inspectors are critical for organic integrity – this training should be part of their continuous education
- Distribute training overview and link to all your inspectors:
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/training>

Summary of Next Steps (cont.)



- The NOP is providing this to you as a training tool
- Integrate program into your staff training
- Supplement training with exercises/homework to test inspector and staff knowledge

Thank you!



Questions?

