U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP) Update

Jennifer Tucker, Ph.D. Associate Deputy Administrator
Agenda

- Welcome and Thanks
- Imports and Enforcement Update
- Closing
## Welcome to Tucson!

### 7 Certified Organic Operations In Tucson
214 in Arizona

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Certifier</th>
<th>Info</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State/Province</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Certified Products</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adventure Coffee Roasting</td>
<td>[CCOF] CCOF Certification Services, LLC</td>
<td>Certified</td>
<td>Tucson</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>HANDLING: Other: Coffee (Roasted), Coffee (Roasted) (Decaffeinated)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDH Enterprises Inc/JAMAC Desert Enterprises</td>
<td>[ASCW] Agricultural Services Certified Organic</td>
<td>Certified</td>
<td>Tucson</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>CROPS: Other: Cactus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faribault Foods Inc.</td>
<td>[QAI] Quality Assurance International</td>
<td>Certified</td>
<td>Tucson</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>HANDLING: Other: Black Beans... More</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Grocers By Vitamin Cottage, Inc. Tucson -- Broadway And Kolb Store</td>
<td>[ONE] OneCert, Inc.</td>
<td>Certified</td>
<td>Tucson</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>HANDLING: Other: Cut &amp; Packaged Fresh Produce... More</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Grocers By Vitamin Cottage, Inc. Tucson--River Road Store</td>
<td>[ONE] OneCert, Inc.</td>
<td>Certified</td>
<td>Tucson</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>HANDLING: Other: Cut &amp; Packaged Fresh Produce... More</td>
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Thanks to the Organic Community

NOSB Spring Meeting Engagement:

• **1,600** Written Public Comments
• **48** Oral Commenters on 2 Webinars
• **146** Webinar attendees
• **84** Signed up to speak in Tucson
Happy Administrative Professional’s Day!

• Meet Joan Avila!
• Five Years at NOP
• Runs NOP Main Office
• Answers hundreds of calls and emails each month
• Manages regulations and requisitions with ease and good humor!

National Organic Program

Agricultural Marketing Service
Secretary’s Principles for Organic

• Protect the integrity of the USDA organic certified seal.
• Deliver efficient and effective oversight of organic production practices, to ensure organic products meet consistent standards.
Enforcement Actions and Plan Ahead

1. Strong Organic Control Systems
   - Trusted People, Processes, and Rules

2. Farm to Market Traceability
   - Worldwide Supply Chain Integrity

3. Robust Enforcement
   - A Level Playing Field for All
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Actions</strong></th>
<th><strong>Regulatory Needs</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Increase Training: Traceback and Mass Balance Audits</td>
<td>• Federated Organic Certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increase Training on Key Regulatory Requirements</td>
<td>• Certification Expiration Dates</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Identify New Models for Risk-Based Accreditation Audit Models</td>
<td>• Accreditation of Certifier Satellite Offices</td>
</tr>
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<td>• Inspector and Reviewer Qualification and Training Requirements</td>
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## Farm to Market Traceability
Worldwide Supply Chain Integrity

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<td>• Import Oversight Initiatives: APHIS &amp; CBP</td>
<td>• Require Increased Reporting to Organic Integrity Database</td>
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<td>• Launching Electronic Export Certificates</td>
<td>• Eliminate Exclusions for Uncertified Handlers</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Increased Reporting to Organic Integrity Database</td>
<td>• Require Certificates for All Imports</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Identifying Requirements: International Supply Chain Technologies</td>
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### Robust Enforcement

**A Level Playing Field for All**

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<th>Regulatory Needs</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Increase NOP-Led Onsite Surveillance, Investigations</td>
<td>• Add Regulatory Requirement for Unannounced Inspections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Expand NOP Investigative Capabilities</td>
<td>• Revise Noncompliance Processes</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Expedite Formal Complaint Processes</td>
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<tr>
<td>• More Enforcement Postings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Process for PACA Referrals</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Risk-Based Complaint Intake/Investigation Models</td>
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The Organic Control System

**Standards**
Statute, Regulations, NOP Handbook

**Accreditation**
Accreditation, Oversight of Third-Party Certifiers

**Certification**
Certification, Oversight of Organic Farms and Businesses

**Enforcement**
Civil Penalties, Loss of Certification for Violators
Core to All Enforcement

Organic Foods Production Act

USDA Organic Regulations

Legally Defensible Evidence

Enforcement Depends on All 3
Training for Certifiers: Face-to-Face

- Training for Certifiers: U.S. and Europe
- Topics: Imports, Adverse Actions, Pasture: Grazing, Other
Training for Certifiers: Investigations

For maximum benefit, we recommend playing through the entire module. If you are only looking for information on a specific topic, you may want to access the Topic Menu.

Start Interactive Movie

https://access.willinteractive.com/the-investigation/the-investigation/
Imports Instruction for Certifiers

Maintaining the Integrity of Organic Imports (NOP 4013)

• Regulatory requirements and best practices for certifiers overseeing organic imports.

• Public comments stressed need for stronger regulatory requirements.

• NOP will continue to stress the best practices with certifiers: Import oversight is a key focus for NOP certifier audits this year.
Directives and Enforcement Actions

• Certifier Directives to Increase Testing/Inspections in Eastern Europe: Reviewing Certifier Reports, Designing New Directives

• Enforcement Actions (Non-compliances, Proposed Suspensions/Revocations) Against Operations and Certifiers

• Of the organic operations in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkey, 96 (13%) have surrendered certification and 30 (4%) have been suspended or revoked by certifiers since 2016.
Collaboration: CBP and APHIS

- **Collaborations:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- **Ship-Specific Investigations:** APHIS has lead at border with CBP. Both have worked to investigate and block incoming grain shipments.
CBP: Organic Imports Data

• **Reality:** CBP system (ACE: Automated Commercial Environment) not programmed to mark products as organic.

• **Action:**
  – AMS, APHIS & CBP held joint meeting to discuss future collaboration options.
  – AMS is reviewing Memorandum of Agreement with CBP to request broader access to trade data.
APHIS: Fumigation Data

• **Reality:** APHIS providing “Fumigation Notifications.”
  1,600 records in 8 Months

• **Action:**
  – Requested Targeted Investigations by Certifiers.
  – Training for Certifiers on Accessing APHIS Fumigation Rules.
  – Data Analysis to identify Top Commodities/Countries: Developing Notification Approaches.
  – Working with APHIS to Access Data Reports in More Usable Way; Hired Data Analyst to Help.
Investing in Data: INTEGRITY

• Traceability requires accurate and timely data.

• Organic Integrity Database Data Quality Dashboard
  – Certifiers can see what they are doing well with their data, and what they could improve on.

• “Investing in INTEGRITY” Awards
  – Awarded to top 6 certifiers in February based on data quality and quantity at the start of 2018.
“Investing in INTEGRITY” Winners!

- CCOF: California Certified Organic Farmers
- County of Marin Organic Certified Agriculture
- New Jersey Department of Agriculture
- NOFA-NY - Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York
- One-Cert, Incorporated
- OTCO: Oregon Tilth Certified Organic
Key Tools: Acreage, Certificates

• Organic farm acreage is critical for investigations and for data analysis and reporting.

• NOP held acreage working session in late February: Certifiers shared reporting process and barriers.

• Continuing to encourage Federal certificate use: 5 Certifiers have generated in system
Electronic Export Certificates

• AMS is developing an electronic export certificate option to support organic businesses shipping to Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Mexico.

• Initial pilot test with interested certifiers completed; launch expected this summer.

• Providing valuable learning for future international systems development work.
Join Us! May 10 Webinar

• **Webinar on May 10:**
  Organic Integrity Through Technology Innovation

• **Topics:**
  – Organic Integrity Database Updates
  – Export Certificate Updates
  – Future Planning

• **More Details:**
Priority: USDA Boots on the Ground

Increased On-Site Surveillance in 2018

- Unannounced Inspections: U.S. Dairies
- Site Visits and Inspections: Grain Importers
- Certifier Audits: Eastern Europe
- Commodity/Country-Level Certifier Audit
Office of Inspector General (OIG) Report

- Published in September 2017
- AMS Actions: On Track to Complete by July 2018
Agricultural Marketing Service
Creating Opportunities for American Farmers and Businesses

www.ams.usda.gov/nop