



## Agricultural Marketing Service

### Electronic Trade Document Exchange (eTDE) Organic Module

#### New Technology for Organic Exports

The National Organic Program (NOP) facilitates international trade for U.S. organic farms and businesses wanting to export organic products. Some foreign governments require specific documents, such as export certificates, before accepting organic products from the U.S. USDA organic certifiers provide export certificates for certified organic products shipped outside the U.S. Export certificates provide key information for farm-to-market traceability of traded organic products.

To support this process, USDA launched a new organic module in the Electronic Trade Document Exchange System (eTDE) to:

- ✓ Make export certificates available electronically.
- ✓ Offer a wide range of certificate requirements, from paper with wet signatures to electronic paperless transactions.
- ✓ Allow U.S. organic farms and businesses to request and obtain copies of organic export certificates from their certifier.
- ✓ Allow authorities in the participating foreign countries to receive electronic export certificates, review information about shipments leaving the U.S., validate printed export certificates, and pull electronic certificates directly into their own systems.

#### Who can use eTDE?

Accredited certifiers, USDA certified organic farms and businesses, and exporters to participating countries: Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, and Mexico. Additional countries may be added in the future, as more governments begin to accept electronic data into their import systems.

#### Where does the information in eTDE come from?

- ✓ Organic farms and businesses fill in information about the product: where it came from and where it is going.
- ✓ Exporters fill in shipment information on behalf of organic farms and businesses.
- ✓ Certifiers approve eTDE accounts for the organic farms and businesses, and exporters using the system. Once the farm, business, or exporter has an account, they can approve additional user accounts for their own company.
- ✓ Certifiers complete and approve certificates.

#### The eTDE organic module uses data from the Organic Integrity Database (INTEGRITY):

Export certificates are populated with certified farm, business, and certifier contact information pulled directly from INTEGRITY, reducing data entry and the risk of user errors. Export certificates are also automatically routed for certifier approval using INTEGRITY information.

#### How do U.S. organic farms and businesses and exporters access eTDE?

Contact their accredited certifier and express interest in using eTDE.

## How do information and documents flow through eTDE?

