

Integrating Organic In USDA

National Organic Standards Board Meeting

October 25, 2010

Madison, WI

Mark Lipson

Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Policy Advisor

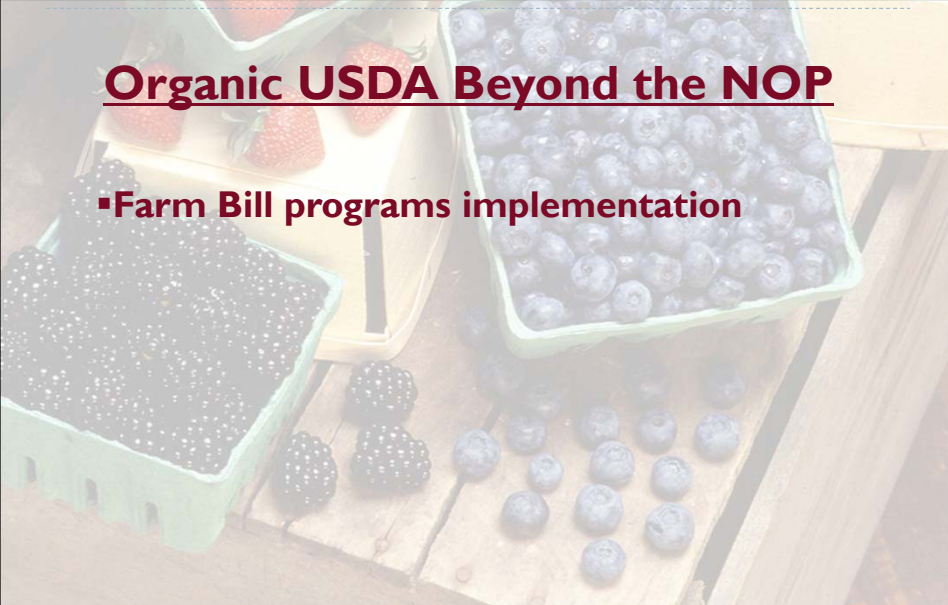
USDA-OSEC-MRP

USDA “Every Way Every Day”

- **Organic agriculture continues to grow its footprint and legitimacy within USDA**
- **Still many challenges**
- **External contention around organic has effects within USDA**
- **NOP efficacy and trust of the USDA organic seal is essential to everything else organic in the department**

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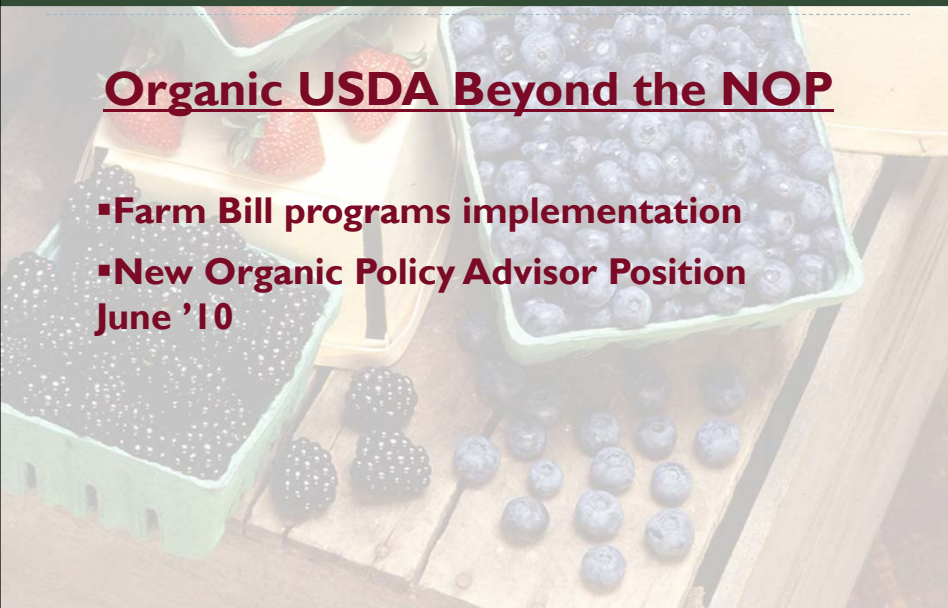


Organic USDA Beyond the NOP

- **Farm Bill programs implementation**

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- **New Organic Policy Advisor Position
June '10**

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- **Inter-agency Projects**
- **Dept.-wide Organic Working Group**
- **USDA 2010 Strategic Plan: Performance Objective for 25% increase in certified operations by 2015**

Farm Bill Implementation

- **Research, Extension & Data**
- **Certification Cost-Share**
- **Conservation Programs - EQIP**
- **Crop Insurance**

Organic Research & Extension FY2010

- **OREI: \$19+ Million (mandatory Farm Bill)**
- **Org Transitions: \$5 Million (discretionary)**
- **USDA Ag Research Service: \$16+ Million**
- **eOrganic electronic extension program**
- **SARE program grants: \$5-10 Million**
- **Research Symposium: March 16-18, 2011, Washington DC**

Organic Data Initiatives

- **\$5 Million mandatory Farm Bill \$ for ODI**
- **Continuing Econ. Research Service series of studies**
- **NASS 2008 Organic Production Survey, 80+% return!**
- **Ongoing expansion of price collection program; AMS Organic Price Portal marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv**

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Fruit and Vegetable Market News Branch

**National Fruit and Vegetable
Organic Summary**

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

For more organic information, become a registered user and join the Organic Community
on our website at: www.marketnews.usda.gov/portal/fv.

Volume I – Number 29 Issued Weekly Tuesday, October 19, 2010

TERMINAL MARKET PRICES FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2010

[Go to Shipping Point Prices](#) [Go to Movement](#)

Unless otherwise stated prices below cover sales by first receivers of available supplies. Sales are made from wholesale lots of stock of generally good merchantable quality and condition unless otherwise stated. Market tones are based on the general market, including product other than organic.



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Certification Cost-Share

- **\$22 Million** allocated for national program, FY09-12
- **Less than half \$** used through FY10
- **49 states and two territories** signed up for FY11



EQIP Organic Initiative

- **Farm Bill conservation program for financial and technical assistance.**
- **\$100 Million reserved by NRCS 09 & 10**
- **\$63 Million in contracts**
- **Significant learning curves & structural obstacles**

Organic Conservation Upgrades

- **Internal NRCS training initiatives**
- **~\$1 million Conservation Innovation Grant to ATTRA & others to revise NRCS Practice Standards for organic**
- **New NRCS Deputy Chief for Science & Technology, Wayne Honeycutt, organic researcher from ARS (Orono, Maine)**
- **Clearing way for organic inspectors to also be NRCS Tech. Service Providers**

Crop Insurance

- **Farm Bill mandate for technical analysis on premiums and payouts**
- **Reports completed early 2010**
- **5% surcharge removed for initial set or crops**
- **Organic “Price Election” implemented for several field crops**
- **Data highly problematic; RMA funding more studies and data collection**

Organic Policy Advisor

- **Position authorized for two years, renewable for four more**
- **Direct report to Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Edward M. Avalos**
- **Serves the Office of the Secretary (i.e., available to leadership of all Mission Areas)**
- **Coordinates the USDA Organic Working Group**

Organic Policy Advisor

- **For public, provides default first-stop for non-regulatory/enforcement needs**
- **For agencies, provides cross-program troubleshooting and coordination**
- **Serves on “Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food” Task Force**

Inter-Agency Projects

- **International Trade tracking codes. Coordinated ERS, FAS, AMS, APHIS and organic traders to submit USDA request to US International Trade Commission for tracking codes to document highest-volume organic commodities.**
- **Request accepted Oct. 15. Codes available January 1.**

Inter-Agency Projects

- **Organic “Cooperation Arrangements” document for AMS/NOP and Foreign Ag Service: Details cooperative activities dealing with offshore compliance issues, NOP foreign travel, international trade information, cross-training of personnel, trade delegations, etc.**
- **Document nearly finalized.**

USDA Organic Working Group

“The OWG is an informal, information-sharing network open to all USDA agencies. Its purpose is to facilitate inter-agency coordination and communication about policies, programs, data and research results pertaining to organic agriculture, products and markets.”

OWG Activities and Outputs

- **Baseline organic program information for all USDA agencies. (December 2010)**
- **Directory of agency contacts for organic issues. (November 2010)**
- **Web portal(s) for easy access to organic USDA program sites and publications**
- **Training and education for USDA personnel**
- **Shared outreach to customers & stakeholders**

USDA Strategic Plan

- **Strategic goal I- “Assist rural communities to create prosperity so they are self-sustaining, repopulating, and economically thriving.”**
- **Objective 1.3 – “Support A Sustainable And Competitive Agricultural System.”**
- **Performance Objective 1.3.1 – Certified organic agricultural [production and handling] operations increase from 16,564 (2009) to 20,655 (2015).**

Organic Integration Onward

▪ Focus on USDA-SP Performance Objective w/ focus on both, organic transition and retention, integrating:

- research & extension
- conservation support programs
- risk management
- market services
- farm credit
- value-added
- co-op development

Organic Integration Onward

▪ Organic Systems Research Conference, March 16-18, 2011, Washington DC

- Analysis and ideas for 2012 Farm Bill
- Stakeholder Input Session(s)
- Outreach to other Fed. departments

NOSB-NOP Foundation

- **Momentum of organic policy and programs efforts rests on the success of the NOP and respect for the USDA organic seal**
- **Intensive period of NOP program improvement for integrity and coherence**
- **Success of NOP upgrades requires high- performance NOSB**

THANK YOU
FOR
YOUR SERVICE

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