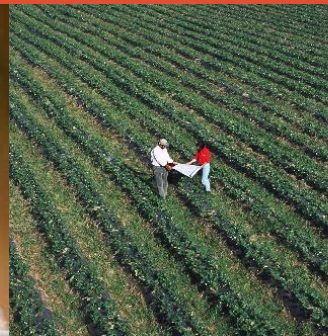




U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP) Update

Jennifer Tucker, Ph.D.
Associate Deputy Administrator

Agricultural Marketing Service



Agenda



- Welcome and Thanks
- Imports and Enforcement Update
- Closing

Welcome to Tucson!



Operation	Certifier	Info	Status	City	State/Province	Country	Certified Products
<input type="text"/>			Certified <input type="button" value="v"/>	Tucson	<input type="text" value="Enter State/Province"/>	<input type="text" value="Enter Country"/>	<input type="text"/>
Adventure Coffee Roasting	[CCOF] CCOF Certification Services, LLC		Certified	Tucson	Arizona	United States of America	HANDLING: Other: Coffee (Roasted), Coffee (Roasted) (Decaffeinated)
ARBUCKLE COFFEE SERVICE, INC.	[OC] Organic Certifiers, Inc.		Certified	TUCSON	Arizona	United States of America	HANDLING: Other: Coffee
CDH Enterprises Inc/JAMAC Desert Enterprises	[ASCO] Agricultural Services Certified Organic		Certified	Tucson	Arizona	United States of America	CROPS: Other: Cactus
Desert Whale Jojoba Co., Inc	[QAI] Quality Assurance International		Certified	Tucson	Arizona	United States of America	HANDLING: Other: DW Jojoba Oil... More
Faribault Foods Inc.	[QAI] Quality Assurance International		Certified	Tucson	Arizona	United States of America	HANDLING: Other: Black Beans... More
Natural Grocers By Vitamin Cottage, Inc. Tucson --Broadway And Kolb Store	[ONE] OneCert, Inc.		Certified	Tucson	Arizona	United States of America	HANDLING: Other: Cut & Packaged Fresh Produce... More
Natural Grocers By Vitamin Cottage, Inc. Tucson--River Road Store	[ONE] OneCert, Inc.		Certified	Tucson	Arizona	United States of America	HANDLING: Other: Cut & Packaged Fresh Produce... More

7 Certified Organic Operations In Tucson 214 in Arizona

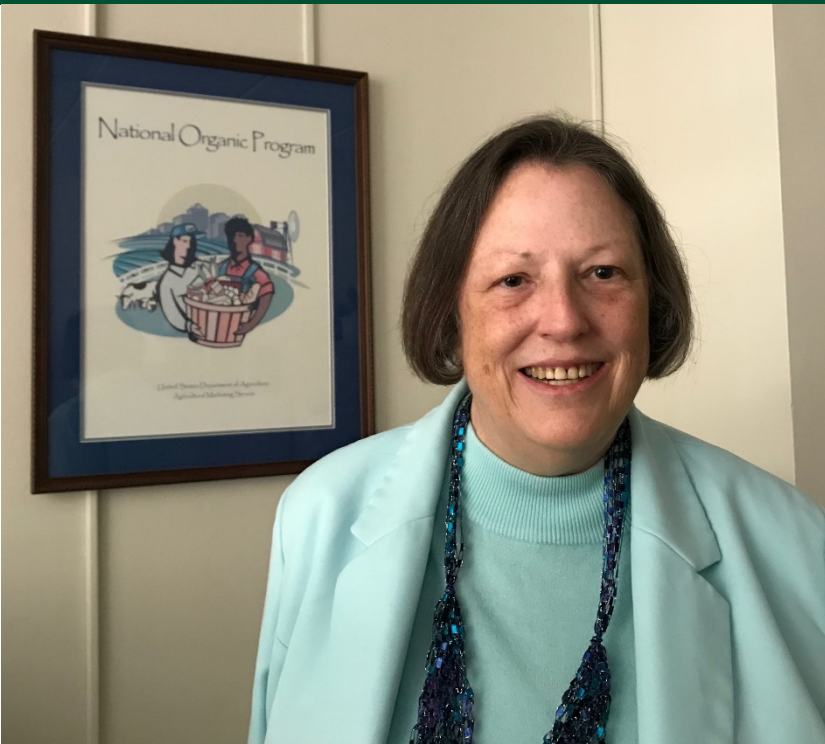
Thanks to the Organic Community



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!

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.



2018 Farm Bill & Legislative Principles



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) uniquely touches the lives of all Americans daily, through the food they eat, the fibers they wear, and the fuels they use. And U.S. producers make it all possible. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue's motto to 'Do Right and Feed Everyone' has served as the inspiration to travel to more than 30 states across the nation, hearing from the men and women on the front lines of U.S. agriculture. Through these interactions, USDA developed a set of principles to share with Congress for consideration as they craft the Farm Bill and other legislation beneficial to the agricultural economy. USDA stands ready to provide counsel to Congress, and strives to be the most efficient, most effective, and most customer-focused

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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**

1

Strong Organic Control Systems Trusted People, Processes, and Rules

Actions	Regulatory Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase Training: Traceback and Mass Balance Audits• Increase Training on Key Regulatory Requirements• Identify New Models for Risk-Based Accreditation Audit Models	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Federated Organic Certificate• Certification Expiration Dates• Accreditation of Certifier Satellite Offices• Inspector and Reviewer Qualification and Training Requirements

2

Farm to Market Traceability Worldwide Supply Chain Integrity

Actions

- Import Oversight Initiatives: APHIS & CBP
- Launching Electronic Export Certificates
- Increased Reporting to Organic Integrity Database
- Identifying Requirements: International Supply Chain Technologies

Regulatory Needs

- Require Increased Reporting to Organic Integrity Database
- Eliminate Exclusions for Uncertified Handlers
- Require Certificates for All Imports

3

Robust Enforcement A Level Playing Field for All

Actions	Regulatory Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase NOP-Led Onsite Surveillance, Investigations• Expand NOP Investigative Capabilities• Expedite Formal Complaint Processes• More Enforcement Postings• Process for PACA Referrals• Risk-Based Complaint Intake/Investigation Models	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add Regulatory Requirement for Unannounced Inspections• Revise Noncompliance Processes

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



THE INVESTIGATION

THE TRAIL OF EVIDENCE

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](#)

[TOPIC MENU](#) [ABOUT](#)



<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.



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

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 submitted a Request for Development to CBP for “organic message sets.” Goal: 2018-2019.
 - 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



For addenda to this Organic Certificate, such as certified item lists with additional details and other operation information, contact the Accredited Certifying Agent identified at the top of this Certificate.



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.

The screenshot shows the USDA's Electronic Trade Document Exchange System (eTDE) interface. At the top, the USDA logo and "United States Department of Agriculture" are displayed. Below this is a banner image featuring a green leaf and a golden field. A row of flags represents various countries: USA, China, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Russia, and Japan. The main content area is titled "Electronic Trade Document Exchange System" and shows the navigation path "eTDE > Request Registration". A note says "Please fill in required fields (*)". The form is titled "eTDE - Organic Entity Registration Request" and contains the following fields:

- *Is your organization certified to the USDA Organic Standard?
 Yes No
- *NOP Operation ID (10 digit) [input field]
- [Submit button]



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:**
<https://www.ams.usda.gov/reports/organic-insider>

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

National Organic Program - International Trade Arrangements and Agreements



Audit Report 01601-0001-21

September 2017

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



United States Department of Agriculture



Agricultural Marketing Service

Creating Opportunities for American Farmers and Businesses

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