USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
National Organic Program

Update for the Spring 2021
National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Meeting

Presented by
The National Organic Program Team
April 2021
Remembering Why We Are Here.....

To Start 2021: 45,578 Certified Organic Businesses Worldwide

28,454
U.S. Operations

Top 10 States
- California: 5,062
- Wisconsin: 1,954
- New York: 1,911
- Pennsylvania: 1,690
- Washington: 1,399
- Iowa: 1,081
- Ohio: 1,067
- Minnesota: 1,012
- Indiana: 967
- Oregon: 955
Many hands across USDA support the Organic Community
National Organic Program FY 2021 Goals

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

2. Robust Enforcement
   - Consistent and Fair Market for All

3. Develop Standards
   - Open, Transparent, Collaborative Processes

4. Engage Partners and Stakeholders
   - Advance Initiatives & Clarify Requirements
1 Strong Organic Control Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>Processes</th>
<th>Tools</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk-Based Auditing and Accreditation</td>
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<td>Organic Import Certificates</td>
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<td>Data Analytics Strategy</td>
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<td>Trade Partner Engagement</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Accreditation Division Update

Close Collaboration with Compliance and Enforcement
Imports Team, Compliance Specialists, Livestock Specialists
2021 NOP Data Quality Award

CCOF
CDA
CDA
GOA
IDALS

MOCA
NOFA-NY
PAO
UDAF
YDA

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service | National Organic Program

Congratulations, 2021 Winners!
2021 NOP Accreditation Director Award
For Certifier Communication

ASCO

CERES

MOSA
Spring 2021 Update: Import Certificates

Organic INTEGRITY Database: Lists Certified Operations
TO BE: Certifier Generates Import Certificate Data

Organic Certifiers Provide Certificate/Data TO
Final Certified Exporter (Shipment, Monthly, Seasonal)

Exporter Provides Certificate/Data to Trade Filers
(Importers/Brokers)

U.S. Importers / Customs Brokers File Entries in ACE

USDA Receives ACE Data |
Validates Against Approved INTEGRITY Certificates

Feedback | Data Validation
Global Organic Oversight Project

Phase 1

*Begin Summer/Fall 2020*

- Global Datawarehouse
- Visual Data Analytics Reporting Platform
- Data Ingestion Technology
- Creation of Data Lake
- Integration with USDA Dashboards

Phase 2

*Begin Summer/Fall 2021*

- Global Import and Export Certificate Portal (GLOBAL)
- Integrity Database Modernization
- APHIS Data Integration
- GLOBAL Certificate Data Reconciliation
- Compliance Enhancements

Phase 3

*Begin TBD*

- ACCREDIT Modernization
- Blockchain Technology Integration
Organic Equivalence Arrangements

Established Arrangements
1. Canada (2009)
2. European Union (2012)
5. Switzerland (2015)
6. Taiwan (2020)
7. United Kingdom (2021)

Supporting Organic Integrity ...
• Rigorous auditing of a government’s organic control system
• Regular peer reviews to verify program integrity
• Organic Working Group collaboration on regulatory changes, compliance issues, and patterns
U.S. - India Recognition Arrangement

- January 2021 – USDA announced ending U.S.-India Organic Recognition, as India’s organic control system was determined to be insufficient to adequately protect the integrity of the USDA organic seal.

- 18-month transition period:
  - July 12, 2021: operations certified by APEDA-accredited certifiers apply for direct certification with USDA-accredited certifiers.
  - July 12, 2022: ALL India organic products/ingredients must be certified USDA organic by USDA-accredited certifier.

- After transition, organic certification in India will operate like any country that does not have a trade arrangement with the U.S.

- NOP India webpage has additional resources and information.
2 Robust Enforcement

- Fast & Fair Complaint Case Management
- Risk-Based Regional Surveillance
- Livestock Compliance Program
- Collaboration: Deploy Many Hands
### NOP Inquiries and Investigations by Fiscal Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Completed Investigations</th>
<th>Resolved Inquiries</th>
<th>New Investigations</th>
<th>Total Incoming</th>
<th>Percentage completed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>127</td>
<td></td>
<td>183</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>452</td>
<td>121%</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>411</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>548</td>
<td>924</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>508</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>860</td>
<td>118%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>834</td>
<td>94%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>106%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>1090</td>
<td>107%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>967</td>
<td>101%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Fiscal year 2021 numbers as of 4/1/2021
Enforcement Dashboard

417 OPEN COMPLAINTS BY TYPE

- Uncertified Operation Making Organic... 17%
- Fraud 17%
- Pesticide Residues 7%
- Labeling Error 4%
- Prohibited Practices 8%
- Prohibited Substance Used 1%

As of 4/1/2021

449 CLOSED CASES BY OUTCOME

- No Violation 23%
- Voluntary Compliance 48%
- Referred for Investigation 9%
- Settlement, Civil Penalty, Appeal 3%
- Administrative Actions 13%
- Fraudulent Certificate Posted...

12 months ending 4/1/2021
Import Oversight

• The NOP continues to use import data to assess trends of organic commodities
• Our surveillance work is currently using agronomic data to evaluate:
  – Organic corn and wheat in the Black Sea region
  – Organic soybeans from India
  – Organic blueberries from Latin America

• Spotlight: Blueberries
  – Data showed a significant increase in organic blueberry imports since 2017
  – Conducting yield analysis to assess feasibility of organic production
2021- Expanding Livestock Compliance
3 Develop Standards

- Strengthening Organic Enforcement
- Origin of Livestock
- National List Rules (Including Inerts Project)
- Collaborate with National Organic Standards Board
Strengthening Organic Enforcement Update

Policy Revision and Final Rule Drafting

Public Comment Analysis

Clearance

Final Rule Publication

National List Rules

Rules to be published since Fall 2020

• Final Rule for Spring 2019 Recommendations: Oxalic acid dihydrate, Pullulan, and Collagen gel casing.

• Proposed Rule for Fall 2019 Recommendations: Potassium hypochlorite, Fatty alcohols, and Dairy cultures.

• Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to address EPA List 3 & EPA List 4.

• Proposed Rule for Sunset Recommendations.
Call for Board Nominations

Individual who owns or operates an organic farming operation (or employee of)

Individual with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation

Individual who represents public interest or consumer interest groups

Individual with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry

Engage Partners and Stakeholders

- Organic Imports Interagency Working Group
- Outreach: Organic Import Certificates
- New Courses: Organic Integrity Learning Center
- Human Capital Initiative
- Engagement Events
2021 Certifier & Inspector Training

• NOP Accredited Certifiers Training in collaboration with the Accredited Certifiers Association and International Organic Inspectors Association
• Over 600 virtual attendees
• 67 Accredited Certifiers
Organic Integrity Learning Center

- Free, online training
- 7 new courses, 21 total
- 5,100+ learner accounts
- New microlearning modules

Inter-Agency Import Oversight

• CBP CTAC: Facilitates information and resource sharing between participating government agencies (PGA) to prevent, deter and investigate violations of U.S. import and export laws.

• Ability to leverage CBP tools and personnel.

• Increased collaboration between PGA’s, CBP HQ and CBP Ports of Entry.
Wild-Caught Fish Update

• Congress directed USDA to provide a report on the feasibility and appropriateness of developing organic production, handling, and labeling standards for wild caught seafood in their FY 2021 Omnibus Joint Explanatory Statement.

• 180 stakeholders attended the March 18th Listening Session.

• The report to Congress is forthcoming and will be posted when ready.
Focusing on Human Capital

- 2020 highlighted urgent needs for qualified organic inspectors: virtual & around the world
- Continues to be a pre-competitive problem
- NOP will release a Call for Proposals at start of May 2021
Documented Assessment Procedure

Need policy for the timely completion of assessments

Satellite Office Assessment Process

Need a process for completing certifier satellite office assessments
We Look Forward to Seeing You Soon!