

Organic Certification

~ Washington State Department of Agriculture ~

Mission: To protect consumers and support the development of the organic food industry by ensuring the integrity of organic food products.



Presentation Overview

- WSDA International Organic Program Overview
- USDA National Organic Program and Access to International Markets



WSDA International Organic Program

USDA National Organic Program Accreditation

- Japan Export Arrangement
- Taiwan Export Arrangement
- Canada Equivalency Arrangement



WSDA International Organic Program

ISO Guide 65 Accreditation

- European Union Equivalency

EU Commission Equivalency Approval

- WSDA is one of 7 US certifiers that received this recognition

National Organic Program



www.ams.usda.gov/nop

The solution to ensuring market access is through establishment of equivalency arrangements or export agreements.

EU and US Equivalency – How far off are we?

November 22, 2012

A lot of progress has been made regarding establishing an organic equivalence arrangement with the European Union. In October 2010 the EU Commission conducted an assessment of the USDA National Organic Program. In May 2011 the NOP assessed the EU Commission's organic program in Spain and the Czech Republic. Both sides are optimistic that an equivalence arrangement may be established in 2012.

- Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administrator – National Organic Program

Stipulations for Equivalency?

- Similar to the US – Canada Equivalency Agreement, it is expected that there will be stipulations on an agreement between the US and the European Union.
- Antibiotics, use of manure, and sodium nitrate are hot button issues that are being looked at by the 2 sides.



WSDA is here to assist

- WSDA Organic Program will keep the industry updated on any developments and opportunities to participate in the process.
- WSDA will continue to operate under our equivalency approval until a US agreement is reached– maintaining access for this important market.



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EU Additional Requirements

- Site specific production areas for IOP crops
- Parallel production
 - Requires additional inspection during harvest
 - Records that clearly distinguish IOP from non-IOP production
 - Separate materials storage area
 - Inspection of non-IOP production areas and records

EU Prohibited Crop Production Materials

- Ammonium carbonate
- Ammonium soaps
- **Antibiotics (streptomycin, terramycin)**
- Boric acid for structural pest control
- **Gibberellic acid**
- Hydrated lime for disease control
- 747 producers (farms)
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Peat for soil conditioning
- Sodium nitrate (Chilean nitrate)
- Sulfur dioxide for rodent control
- Vitamins B₁, C, E
- Vitamin D₃ for rodent control

*Use of EU prohibited materials takes acreage
out of the IOP for 3 years*

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EU Additional Requirements

- **Manure Use Restrictions**

- Raw manure may not be from caged poultry operations.
- Raw, composted, processed, and blended manure products require testing for heavy metals, pathogens, and pesticide residues.
 - Blended fertilizers which contain manure as an ingredient at significant levels ($\geq 10\%$) require testing to confirm compliance.

Requesting Compliance Verification

- European Union:
 - Submit an application and international organic system plan
 - \$440 fee and additional inspection needed

<http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Organic/international.aspx>



Please contact us.

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