

USDA National Organic Program

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National Organic Program



The National Organic Program (NOP)



- **Mission:**
Ensure the integrity of USDA organic products throughout the world
- **Vision:**
Organic Integrity from Farm to Table,
Consumers Trust the Organic Label
- **Core Role:**
Implement the Organic Foods Production Act and the USDA organic regulations

National Organic Program



- **NOP Staffing:** 45 employees in three Divisions and the Office of the Deputy Administrator
- **NOP Budget:**
 - FY 2012: \$6.919 million
 - FY 2013: \$6.369 million
 - FY 2014 – 2016: \$9 million

Oversight Responsibility:

- 81 certifying agents worldwide
- 31,000 certified organic operations in over 120 countries
- Over \$43 billion (43,000 million) in U.S. organic sales (2015)



NOP's Accreditation Approach:

Partners in maintaining organic integrity



Challenges in Carrying out the Accreditation Process:

- Cost to certifiers
- Different Standards and Cultures
- Adjusting to Technology
- Certifiers are getting smarter



Training for and available to certifiers:

- Annual in Person Training
- Webinars – Recorded (Organic Integrity Database, Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices)
- Website Resources (Presentations, Fact Sheets, Videos)
- Audit Priorities



De-accreditation and related procedures:

- Accreditation is granted for five years
- Onsite office audits occur about every two and a half years and include witness and/or review audits.
- Settlement Agreements
 - Additional Surveillance
 - Mandatory Training attendance



Risk-oriented surveillance of certification bodies:

- Certifier specific issues or risks
- Technology Assist – Accredited (Ecert)



Accreditation System

- Streamline and standardize NOP's processes and workflow
- Manage audit scheduling, report generation and reviews, certifier contacts

Certifier Information Submittal

- Tool will make it easier for certifiers to send information to NOP: corrective actions, annual reports, adverse actions
- NO new technology investments will be needed for certifiers

Thank You

Organic Integrity from
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www.ams.usda.gov/nop

