



QUARTERLY REPORT

Customer Interviews

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The Organic Food Program is dedicated to providing our customers with the highest quality certification services possible. Since early 2006, we have been working with an outside consultant to obtain tools to most effectively and efficiently provide organic certification services to producers, processors and handlers in Washington State. As part of this process, in an effort to ensure that the services we offer are the services you need, we will be conducting customer interviews throughout the rest of the year. These interviews are an opportunity for you to tell us what is important to you in regards to organic certification and to describe your impressions on the most important role(s) you see of WSDA Organic Food Program playing in this process.

Your responses will not influence the outcome of your inspection or impact your obtaining or maintaining organic certification. Rather, your perspectives will be considered when making decisions regarding the program's priorities and direction in the future.

What To Expect At the time of your inspection or by way of a phone call from an office staff member, you will be asked if you would like to participate in our customer interview process. You have every right to decline. If you choose to participate, your responses will be kept confidential. The interview consists of only one question: "What is important to you in regards to organic certification?" From here, you have freedom to

To ensure, however, that the conclusions are statistically sound, we have divided all certified operations into five primary groups: producers, processors, handlers, livestock producers, and material registrants. From these groups, random samples have been drawn. The results from interviewing the random samples pulled from each group will be used to draw statistically sound conclusions to ensure that changes that result from this process are, in fact, relevant to our customers. After we have determined the critical factors that lead to your satisfaction we will develop a feedback mechanism so that you can grade us on how we are doing.

We encourage you to start thinking about what you want to offer during your interview. The more thoughtful the responses we receive, the more impact the changes will ultimately have. Of course, we are open to receiving feedback all of the time, not just during the interviews. If you have already had your interview and want to add more or if you just want to begin a dialogue, please submit your thoughts to the following: WSDA Organic Food Program, ATTN. Customer Interviews, PO Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-42560; Email: organic@agr.wa.gov

We are committed to customer satisfaction. We are confident that this process will be a successful component in creating better customer service while simultaneously meeting the organic accreditation requirements. We



ORGANIC ADVISORY BOARD MEETING: YOU'RE INVITED!

Get involved in our Organic Advisory Board (OAB) Meetings! Public input is welcome at each OAB Meeting, the next one is scheduled for October 26th from 10AM to 5PM. This meeting is tentatively planned for either the Ellensburg or North Bend area, the location will be determined at a later date. You can find updates at our website, <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Organic/default.htm> or by calling (360) 902-1805. If you plan on attending and speaking during the Public Comment period, please no-

Regulatory Changes to Affect Organic Processed Products

Do you manufacture, label, or market organic products that contain non-organic ingredients? If so, your products may be affected by a June 2005 court order concerning the interpretation of the USDA National Organic Standards. *As of June 9, 2007 all non-organically produced agricultural substances or ingredients that are not listed in Section 205.606 of the organic standards, will no longer be allowed in products labeled "organic."* Currently Section 205.606 of the National List *only includes five substances:* Native Cornstarch, Water Extracted Gums (arabic, guar, locust bean, carob bean), Kelp (for use only as a thickener and dietary supplement), Unbleached Lecithin, and High-Methoxy Pectin.

Commercially Availability is currently defined by the National Organic Standards as the ability to obtain a production input in an appropriate form, quality, or quantity to fulfill an essential function in an organic system. Until recently, the National Organic Standards had been interpreted that each certifying agency will determine, on a case-by-case basis, the commercial unavailability of ingredients during the certification process. The certified operation was responsible for documenting their efforts to source an organic form of an ingredient prior to their certifier approving the use of a non-organic ingredient.

On June 9, 2005 the US District Court in Portland, Maine issued a final judgment and order in the case of Harvey v. Johanns – a lawsuit filed by Arthur Harvey in challenge of the existing organic regulations. *One clarification included in the court order states that the National Organic Standards do not authorize certifying agents and their clients to determine the commercial availability of non-organic agricultural ingredients or substances. The court order further clarifies that the use of non-organically produced agricultural ingredients or substances is only allowed when the substance has been listed in Section 205.606 of the National List.*

How Does The Court Order Affect Your Organic Products?

As of June 9, 2007 all non-organically produced agricultural ingredients or substances that are not listed in Section 205.606 of the organic standards, will no longer be allowed in products labeled "organic." This includes all non-organic agricultural ingredients or substances that were previously approved by WSDA Organic Food Program. All organically labeled products, and corresponding packaging (labels), manufactured on or after June 9, 2007 must be in full compliance with the court order.

What Action Does Your Company Need To Take To Ensure Your Organic Products Remain In Compliance?

- Reformulate your product to contain only organically certified agricultural ingredients.; OR,
- Remove the "Organic" claim from your label and re-label your product as "Made with Organic (list up to three ingredients or food groups)"; OR,
- Petition USDA to add your non-organic ingredient to the National List. Petitions requesting inclusion of a new non-organic agricultural substance to Section 205.606 of the National List should be made following the procedures described in Section 205.607 – Amending the National List. Additional information about the petition process can be found at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/Petition/PetionHome.html>.

Throughout the course of the next year, WSDA Organic Food Program will be reviewing each certified processor and handler file and will notify you if you have organically labeled products that are affected by the court order. However, we encourage you to take a proactive approach and begin the process of reformulating or re-labeling products as soon as possible in



Update on Organic Cost Share Program in 2006

Cost Share applications were sent to all certified organic businesses on March 29, 2006. After the 2005 Cost Share reimbursements were paid out, \$57,764.39 was available to be distributed to certified operations in Washington State during the 2006 season. Due to the limited funds available, monies were disbursed on a first-come first-served basis. Applications were processed in the order they were received. The first applications were received on April 3, 2006. Reimbursements went to Washington State applicants whose Cost Share applications were received on April 3 and April 4, 2006. A total of 390 applications were received. Of those, 161 were awarded cost share money: 109 producers (19% of all certified producers), 31 processors (18% of all certified processors) and 21 handlers (20% of all certified handlers). A total of \$82,519.40 would be needed to provide cost share reimbursement to the 230 certified operations who submitted cost share applications, but who did not receive a reimbursement.

The National Organic Certification Cost Share Program was funded by Congress in 2003. Congress has not allocated any additional funds for this program and all available funds have been spent.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Organic Seed Alliance Farmer Field Days - Organic lettuce and brassica seed production, crop improvement and farm tour. July 19, 2006, Gathering Together Farm in Philomath OR. Contact the Seed Alliance at (360) 395-7192 or www.seedalliance.org.

Tilth Producers Organic Farm Walks - July 10, 2006. Sunny Pine Farm, Twisp WA. Topic: Value Added Lavender Production. Cost: \$10 Tilth members, \$15 non-members. Contact Nancy@tilthproducers.com or (206) 442-7620.

Tilth Producers Organic Farm Walks - July 24, 2006. Pipitone Farms, Rock Island, WA. Topic: Soft Fruit Production. Cost: \$10 Tilth members, \$15 non-members. Contact Nancy@tilthproducers.com or (206) 442-7620.

Quilliscut Culinary Professional Retreat: The Sustainable Table. Rice WA, August 17-21. First in a series of five retreats to educate food professionals and culinary students about where food comes from. Students work with a professional chef to prepare lunch and dinner with ingredients from the garden and local farms. Tuition: \$695 per person; scholarships available. Applications on line or contact: Rick and Lora Lea Mysterly, 509-738-2011, or email rmysterly@ultraplix.com.

Tilth Producers Organic Farm Walks - August 8, 2006. Bluebird Grain Farms, Wintrop, WA. Topic: Certified Organic Grains. Cost: \$10 Tilth members, \$15 non-members. Contact Nancy@tilthproducers.com or (206) 442-7620.

Seattle Tilth 2006 Harvest Fair - Meridian Park in the Wallingford Neighborhood, Seattle WA. The fair includes Tomato Tasting and Gardening Demonstrations. Fun for all ages!! Sep 09, 2006 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Tilth Producers Organic Farm Walks - Giggling Goat Farm, Shelton, WA. Topic: Certification Processes & Livestock Integration. Cost: \$10 Tilth members, \$15 non-members. Contact Nancy@tilthproducers.com or (206) 442-7620.



Tilth Producers Organic Farm Walks - September 25, 2006. Mountain Laurel Jersey Dairy, Trout Lake WA. Topic: Organic Dairy. Cost: \$10 Tilth members, \$15 non-members. Contact Nancy@tilthproducers.com or (206) 442-7620.

30th Annual Provender Alliance Conference - October 4 - 6, 2006. Provender Alliance is a non-profit membership organization providing networking, outreach, and education to natural foods and related companies doing business in the Northwest. Their annual conference is planned for October, save the date and details will be out in August!! Contact: 888-352-7431, or email: info@provender.org.

Western Washington Fruit Research Foundation Fall Field Day & Open House - October 14, 2006 in Mt. Vernon, WA. Classes on harvesting, preservation and storage of fruit. Also fertilizer and nutrition, wine and cider production and fruit tasting! <http://www.wvfrf.org>.

Bridging Borders Toward Food Security - 10th Annual Conference of the Community Food Security Coalition. October 7-11, 2006, Vancouver BC. <http://www>.

Processor and Handler Consultants Available

Organic Food Program staff are happy to provide technical assistance regarding organic standards and material input approval. However, National Organic Standards restrict certification agencies from providing consultation services to certified operations. WSDA staff is not available to provide recommendations about particular inputs and new product development, nor can staff help set up procedures and practices for an applicant that would like to begin processing organic products.

Independent consultation services are now available to assist operations that would like additional assistance in setting up a compliant operation. The following three consultants have specifically contacted our office regarding their services and expertise in the processing and handling of organic food products.

Steven Harper, PhD; Phone: 360-650-9065; Email: stevenharper2@msn.com; Areas of Expertise: Processing, Regulatory and Certification Compliance, Product Development, Quality Assurance and NLEA Labeling, Materials and Ingredient Evaluation.

Bob Durst; Simple Organic Solutions, LLC; Phone: 541-740-6490; Email: BobD@SimpleOrganicSolutions.com; Areas of Expertise: All aspects of Processing, Quality Assurance, Materials Evaluation, Pre-certification services, Personal Care Products, Regulatory Compliance, Product Development, Labeling.

Sarah Huntington; Huntington Consulting Services; Phone: 360-201-9668; Email: huntingtonsj@yahoo.com; Areas of Expertise: New and Renewal Certifications, Noncompliance

Materials and Organic System Plans – Guidelines for Organic Certification

On May 6, 2006, Miles McEvoy and Les Eklund attended a USDA sponsored organic certifier training. During this training Mark Bradley, NOP Program Manager, clarified that organic producers must list all materials in their Organic System Plans (Organic Farm Plans) and indicated that certification agencies should be paying close attention to ensuring these materials lists are accurate and updated. National Organic Standards require that all materials to be used in the organic production system be disclosed to the certifying agent at the time the organic production system plan or system plan update is submitted:

§ 205.201 Organic production and handling system plan.

(a) The producer or handler of a production or handling operation, except as exempt or excluded under § 205.101, in tending to sell, label, or represent agricultural products as "100 percent organic," "organic," or "made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))" must develop an organic production or handling system plan that is agreed to by the producer or handler and an accredited certifying agent. An organic system plan must meet the requirements set forth in this section for organic production or handling. An organic production or handling system plan must include:

(2) A list of each substance to be used as a production or handling input, indicating its composition, source, location(s) where it will be used, and documentation of commercial availability, as applicable;

The Organic Food Program began to look at how we review the materials lists we receive and what inspectors are noticing in the field. It became clear that inspectors often find that organic producers are using materials that are not included in their Organic Farm Plans as required by 205.201 (above). The bottom line is that Organic System Plans need to include all materials that are used as a production or handling input. Guidelines on how WSDA will be handling this situation during the 2006 season are described below.

- **Inspection**

Inspectors will review the Organic System Plan and Update. The Organic System Plan and Update should have a complete list of materials used by the organic operation. Any materials that are not in the Organic System Plan and Update are described in the exit interview.

- **Inspection Report review**

Once your inspection is complete, it is submitted to the office for review. During the review, your Organic Program Specialist will rely on a variety of tools to determine compliance with National Organic Standards. In order to ensure that all applicants are treated fairly and consistently during the inspection report review process, the following guidelines have been developed. By sharing this with all of our certified operators, we hope to alleviate some concerns and questions.

1. No Action Needed

Producer has listed a generic material (e.g. *Bacillus thuringiensis*) in Organic System Plan for diamondback moth control. During inspection it is determined that the grower is using Dipel DF. Use of specific brand name product is not an issue as long as those products are NOP compliant (OMRI or WSDA listed). This does not get recorded in exit interview and does not need to be addressed in response letter.

2. Letter with conditions.

Producer lists specific brand name materials in Organic System Plan. The inspector notes that the producer used a different brand name material in same generic category (e.g. switched Lighthouse Fish Meal 10-4.5-0 with Lighthouse Fish Meal 9-4-0).

Inspection Report Review letter would describe that a different material was used then listed in their Organic System Plan. The letter would request that the producer lists the correct materials in their next year's Organic System Plan.

Example: Javelin WG in plan, used Dipel DF – both Bt products, both NOP approved. Note in exit interview. Have grower update plan during annual update.

3. Needs Documentation letter.

Producer has a plan for soil fertility management that includes using compost and lime. During inspection it is determined that the producer used a synthetic micronutrient based on a soil test. The synthetic micronutrient is not described in the Organic System Plan.

The Inspection report review letter would describe that the Organic System Plan did not list each substance used as

Materials & Organic System Plans – Guidelines for Organic Certification

Continued from previous page.



4. Notice of NonCompliance (NONC)

Examples:

- a. Producer does not list any materials in Organic System Plan for insect control. Producer uses insect control material.
- b. Producer does not list materials in Organic System Plan for soil fertility management (compost, manure, micronutrients, chelates). Producer uses soil fertility products.
- c. No materials listed as a crop production aid in the Organic System Plan. Producer uses crop production aid materials (e.g. gibberrellic acid).
- d. No materials listed for disease control in producer's Organic System Plan. Producer uses disease control materials.

The NONC would describe that the Organic System Plan did not list each substance used as part of the production system and require that their Organic System Plan is updated. The NONC would require that each substance to be used as a production input is listed, and would indicate its composition, source, and location of where it will be used. 205.201(a)(2).

In order to avoid any compliance action, your best route is to simply provide a comprehensive list of all materials

Organic Food Program: News and Updates

Growth in Organic Food Program

The Organic Program is growing significantly this year. A few trends: Total Operations – 858 in July 2005, 915 in July 2006; Total Producers – 570 in 2005, 615 in 2006; Total Dairies – 1 in 2003, 42 in June 2006 (both certified and in conversion).

Budget update

Estimated revenue for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 is \$1,226,000, expenses are estimated to be \$1,193,000 leaving a positive balance of \$33,000 for this fiscal year. In January it was estimated that the program would have a budget shortfall of at least \$100,000 by the end of the fiscal year. Increasing revenue from certified organic businesses has led to an improved budget situation.

State Organic Program legislative proposal

A legislative proposal was drafted that would establish a funding mechanism to cover the expenses of conducting surveillance inspections and implementing a State Organic Program. The proposal would establish fees for out-of-state organic certification agencies and non-WSDA certified organic operations. Revenue from the proposal was estimated at \$10,000 per year. Due to the limited amount of revenue that the proposal would bring in, the cost of developing the proposal and other agency priorities the



National Organic Program Certifier Training

Les Eklund and Miles McEvoy attended the National Organic Program Certifier Training on May 6 in Chicago. The training was provided by Mark Bradley, NOP Program Manager and covered a number of topics including renewing accreditation, qualifications for certifier personnel, conflicts of interest, treated seeds, labeling issues, approving inputs and commercial availability. Mark Bradley stressed the importance of having adequate qualifications (training, education and experience) for all certification personnel. He also stressed the central role of the Organic System Plans and how they had to accurately reflect the practices and inputs used by certified operations.

National Association of State Organic Programs

The National Association of State Organic Programs (NASOP) is a national association of state officials that provides a forum for discussing the promotion and regulation of the organic food industry. The association explores issues of administering organic programs, facilitates communication among the member's respective agencies, and represents common interests to other national organizations and federal agencies For more information, go to www.nasda.

Materials Corner with Katherine Withey

How can I make sure that the materials that I use are allowed for use in organic farming? There are so many changes to the standards, it is hard to keep up with changes to materials at the same time. I'm afraid that I will get a noncompliance for using a material that was allowed last year, but not allowed this year.



Please also note that we have started to look closely at the materials listed on your Organic System Plan and inspection report.. You are required to provide us a complete list of materials in your Organic System Plan or Organic System Plan Update during your annual application process. The main reason we require this list is to comply with National Organic Standard

Maintaining compliance for all material inputs used on your operation is important. It may seem difficult and confusing to keep up with all of the new products that come on and off of both our Brand Name Material List and the OMRI material list. The best advice in regards to materials is: "Never Assume."

205.201, however, there is an additional benefit to you in listing all of your materials: when you provide a comprehensive list, and there is a material that does not comply with the standards, you will be notified in a letter that the product is not allowed. This may serve to avoid a compliance issue in the future.

Many times, a farmer will have a leftover container of a material in their shed, whether pesticide or fertilizer, and these materials may lurk around for years. Just because it was registered last year, DOES NOT mean that it is regis-

When in doubt, call the Organic Food Program! We

Use of Chlorine Materials on Organic Processed/Handled Products

A common question from new handling and processing applicants concerns the use of sanitizers, specifically whether chlorine materials (sodium hypochlorite, calcium hypochlorite, and chlorine dioxide) are allowed in an organic operation. In January 2006, the Organic Food Program's Advisory Board discussed the issue of chlorine and the confusion that can arise about the use of chlorine-based materials. The following summary provides an overview of how WSDA Organic Food Program evaluates chlorine use under the National Organic Standards. Please use this as a guide to ensure your operation utilizes chlorine materials in compliance with National Organic Standards:

- Chlorine as a sanitizer on equipment: The use of chlorine materials to sanitize food contact equipment is allowed in an organic operation, provided the operation ensures the material does not contaminate an organic product (i.e. a potable water rinse is in place, the operation's procedures ensure the substance has fully evaporated, etc.) – Section 205.272.
- Chlorine use as a post harvest sanitizer directly on raw organic products: The use of chlorine materials directly on raw organic products (i.e. in the wash water or dump tank) is allowed per Section 205.601. However, if organic products are exposed to chlorine levels above the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) for chlorine, a rinse must follow the use of the chlorine materials. *In addition*, the wastewater leaving the facility must not exceed the MRDL for chlorine levels. The MRDL for chlorine is specified in the Safe Drinking Water Act as 4 ppm for chlorine and 0.8 ppm for chlorine dioxide.

Can I Use NuFilm P and NuFilm 17?
Yes, the Organic Food Program is allowing the use of NuFilm P and NuFilm 17 in the 2006 growing season. It has been determined that the ingredients in these products are natural and comply with National Organic Standards. Miller Chemical has submitted applications to have their products approved on the Brand Name Material List, and they are currently under review. We will keep you posted on any changes to the allowed status of this product in the future. If you have any questions or concerns, do not

- **Chlorine use as a sanitizer directly on processed organic products:** Section 205.605 of the National Standards covers substances that can be used on or with a processed product ("processed" means that the product has been cut, blanched, or somehow modified from its original form). WSDA Organic Food Program allows the use of chlorine materials in direct contact with a processed product, provided a rinse follows the use of the chlorine materials in excess of the Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL). *And* provided the wastewater leaving the facility does not exceed the MRDL for chlorine levels. The MRDL for chlorine is specified in the Safe Drinking Water Act as 4 ppm for chlorine and 0.8 ppm for chlorine dioxide.

The use of chlorine materials in an organic operation must be included in the operation's Organic System Plan. In addition a description of the opera-

BRAND NAME MATERIAL LIST UPDATE: July 1, 2006

This list is to be used as an addendum to the Brand Name Material List distributed to all new and renewal applicants for certification. All materials listed below are approved as of July 1, 2006. You may access a complete updated Brand Name

PRODUCT NAME	COMPANY NAME	PRODUCT SUB-	PRODUCT TYPE	RESTRICTIONS
Agri-Nip C	HDH Agri Products	Growth Regulator	Post Harvest Material	Label Use Only
Alaska Salmon Fish Fertil-	Alaska Protein Recovery	Fish Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Crystal Peak BP 4-12-1	Crystal Peak Environmental	Processed Manure	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Dry Chicken Manure	Stiebrs Farm, Inc.	Chicken Manure	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Must be used in compli-
Genesis Gib 4%	Genesis Agri Products	Giberellic Acid	Crop Production Aid	Label Use Only
GibGro 4LS	Nufarm Americas Inc. AGT	Giberellic Acid	Crop Production Aid	Label Use Only
Nalco® 315 FG	Nalco Company	Defoamer	Post Harvest Material	Label Use Only
Naturally Prilled Gypsite	Agro Minerals Fertilizer	Gypsum	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
PGPR Stealth	Holmes ENVIRO, LLC	Biological Soil Amend-	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Pro Natural Suberization	Wilbur Ellis Co.	Suberization Aid	Crop Production Aid	Label Use Only
SOBEC ^a	Dune Specialty Products	Compost Tea	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Soil Supli-Mint	A.M. Todd Company d.b.a.	Mint Mulch	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Sprout Torch	1,4 Group, Inc.	Growth Regulator	Post Harvest Material	Label Use Only
Summit Springs Organic 14	Summit Springs	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Tetra-Bor 15	Tetra Micronutrients	Boron	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be

Sales Audits, Certification Fees, and How to Claim Sales On Renewal Applications

The purpose of conducting audits is to reconcile an operations production capacity with sales and yield records, to verify that accurate sales information was submitted with the renewal application packet and the correct fee was paid, to verify that only organic products were sold as organic, and to evaluate the recordkeeping system to ensure it maintains organic identify and prevents commingling on split operations

Organic operations should have sales and production records available during the inspection for the audit. Production records may include harvest records, bin tickets, receiving tickets from wholesalers or processors, CSA share records, farmers market statements, receipts from retail stores and restaurants, pack out records, sales records and sales summaries. Processing records may include receiving records, storage records, processing run records, final product inventory sheets, sales records, and other records that track organic products at your facility. Organic inspectors will evaluate and reconcile these records to verify that the records are readily understandable and auditable and they maintain the identity of organic products through production, processing and distribution. NOS 205.103

Certification fees are based on the previous calendar year sales of organic food products. There has been some confusion on how to calculate previous year sales. For the purposes of calculating your certification fees please follow these guidelines: *Include all income from sales of organic food products within the previous calendar year.* Income often includes sales of product from more than one crop year. If you produce organic products that are held in storage (e.g. grain, fruit, frozen berries) and sold over more than one calendar year *only include the sales within the previous calendar year when you calculate your certification fee.* You will need to include sales from organic products produced in previous calendar years. For instance, if you sold some of your 2004 organic apple crop in 2005 you would need to include those 2005 sales when you calculate your 2006 certification fees.

There have been some questions concerning how organic tree fruit growers should be paying certification fees. The majority of organic tree fruit growers ship bulk organic fruit to an organic fruit handler. The organic fruit handler packs and markets the fruit. The organic fruit handler is certified and pays fees based on the gross sales value of the organic fruit. Organic tree fruit growers receive income from the organic sales after the packing and marketing charges have been taken out. Organic tree fruit growers calculate their previous calendar year's sales based on the value of the apples shipped to the packing shed (net return after packing).

New Data on Organic Agriculture Available

Organic agriculture is growing in the Pacific Northwest. Each year the WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR) compiles statistics to profile organic agriculture in both Washington and Oregon, with funding from the Organic Crop research grant supported by Senator Patty Murray. Data for 2005 are now available at the Organic Statistics web site of CSANR <http://csanr.wsu.edu/Organic/OrganicStats.htm>. They are presented in a document form as well as a Powerpoint graphic summary. In addition, an annual report on organic tree fruit is produced, as this is a major segment of organic production in Washington.

Oregon experienced a huge growth in certified organic acreage in 2005, while Washington remained steady. Tree fruit and vegetables dominate in Washington, while forages are the largest segment in Oregon. While certified acreage is similar for both states, the farm gate value of production in Washington is considerably higher. With the implementation of the National Organic Program in 2002, certifiers are no longer allowed to require transition status for growers, so our ability to predict the coming increase in organic acres is diminished since we cannot track transition acres for the one or two years prior to certification. Further increases in dairy, apples, and processed vegetables are expected, based on the strong market demand for these products.

Mission Statement

The WSDA Organic Food Program protects consumers and supports the organic food industry by ensuring the integrity of organic food products. The program certifies organic producers and handlers to US National Organic Standards and enforces organic standards in Washington State. The

