



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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**International Organic Program – Manure and Compost Guidelines  
December 8, 2008**

The WSDA Organic Food Program certifies producers, handlers and processors to organic standards used in the European Union, Japan (JAS) and Canada (COR) under the International Organic Program. Beginning in 2009, the WSDA is also evaluating materials for equivalency to international organic standards.

Manure and compost products pose a challenge for evaluation due to the way that these products are allowed under European and Canadian organic standards. For example, European and Canadian organic standards restrict the use of manure and compost from factory farms though they do not provide a clear definition of a factory farm. Our understanding is that factory farm manure is restricted because of concerns that the manure/compost may be contaminated with prohibited substances such as heavy metals and pesticides. We have therefore developed guidelines for evaluating compost and manure that addresses these concerns and is equivalent to the European, Canadian and Japanese organic standards.

The attached guidelines apply to manure used in certified operations participating in the WSDA International Program as well as materials registered on the WSDA Brand Name Materials List.

**Specific Clarifications:**

- **Poultry Manure** – Under the European Union and the Canadian Organic Regime, no raw manure is allowed from caged poultry operations. Composted or heat processed caged poultry manure is permitted if it meets standards for residue testing.
- **Residue Testing** – Manure sourced from non-organic operations may be contaminated with materials prohibited in organic production. In order to verify that these sources do not pose a contamination risk to certified producers, manure must be tested annually for the presence of contaminants, including pathogens, heavy metals, and pesticide residues. Testing requirements apply to raw, composted, and heat processed manure used under the international program as noted on the enclosed tables.

If you have questions, please contact Lisa Brines at (360) 725-3893 for material registration or Brenda Book at (360) 902-2090 for international organic certification.

Sincerely,



Miles McEvoy  
Organic Program Manager

Attachment: AGR 2805 - Manure use under international organic standards

mm/lb