



# QUARTERLY REPORT

## *Thoughts on organic integrity*

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The WSDA Organic Food Program is conducting phone surveys to assess how we are doing at satisfying our customers' needs regarding organic certification. The expectation that WSDA protects organic integrity is a common theme that we hear from most of our interviews. I see our work in protecting organic integrity in two major categories, certification and enforcement. Certification is the work of reviewing applications, conducting NOP and EOVP inspections, evaluating Organic System Plans, reviewing inspection reports and issuing certificates. Certification work includes issuing Notices of Noncompliance for minor violations and specifying conditions for continuing certification. Organic certification fees pay for the certification work.

The second way that WSDA protects organic integrity is through surveillance activities and enforcing compliance. Surveillance activities include collecting samples, conducting unannounced inspections of certified operations, inspecting retail food stores and farmers markets. Our phone surveys indicate that certified operations would like WSDA to collect more samples and to report the results of our sampling. We are budgeting \$21,000, which will allow us to collect 150 samples for surveillance and compliance work.

Investigating complaints is another important component of protecting organic integrity. Some complaints are determined to have no merit but in some situations we have identified fraudulent activities that have led to decertification and fines. Enforcement tools that we utilize include suspending or revoking certification and issuing civil penalties. Certification fees do not directly pay for the cost of surveillance, sampling and enforcement, however, we know that surveillance and enforcement are very important to certified operations and WSDA is expected to make these activities a priority. *By Miles McEvoy, Organic Program Manager*



Richard Carr interviewing Loren Bailey, Jr.

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## ***Verifying Transitional / Organic Status of Newly-Certified Land***

At the Biofach Organic Trade Fair in Nuremberg, Germany, thirty-four organic certification agencies met to discuss methods for verifying transition to organic crop production. Miles McEvoy, WSDA Organic Program Manager, facilitated the workshop which was sponsored by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM). Miles' expenses were paid by IFOAM so that he could facilitate the workshop. The workshop's purpose was to share information and develop common procedures to verify transitional requirements.

Worldwide, the majority of organic standards require a 3 year transition from conventional to organic production. Verification of transition is best monitored through inspections during the transitional time period. Sites that are not inspected during the transitional period may not obtain organic certification immediately because the certifier is unable to verify that the site has complied with the 3 year transitional requirement. Within the WSDA organic program we have denied organic certification to growers that have insufficient documentation to verify transition. In these situations the grower may qualify for transitional certification but be ineligible for organic status until there has been 1-3 years of inspection and monitoring.

The Europeans have a different approach to the transitional period. They refer to the transition as the conversion period. During the conversion period the grower must apply for certification and be inspected. This process verifies that the conversion to organic production is occurring.

Concerns about new land being brought immediately into organic production without adequate verification have been raised by many organic growers and handlers. Prior to the implementation of the USDA National Organic Program, Washington State required certification during the transitional period. CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers) requires new sites to have both internal records of compliance as well as verification from the county agricultural office that verifies that no prohibited materials have been applied. In February 2007, the WSDA Organic Advisory Board recommended that transitional certification be required in order to protect organic integrity and existing organic producers. The USDA National Organic Program has also expressed concern about the verification process for new sites coming into organic production. During a January 2007 NOP training they stated that certifiers must not rely solely on affidavits to verify organic standards. USDA would like to see a tighter and more consistent process for verifying compliance with transitional requirements.

WSDA is exploring ways to tighten up the process for verifying transition in order to protect organic integrity. The best way to ensure compliance with the 3 year transitional requirement is to obtain certification during the transitional time period. Transitional certification fees are \$70 per site. Growers who do not obtain certification during the transitional period may risk their eligibility for obtaining immediate organic status the first year they apply for certification. *By Miles McEvoy, Organic Program Manager*

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## ***USDA Insurance Program for Organically Grown Crops***

Organic growers can insure their organically grown (insurable) crops under USDA's Agricultural Risk Protection Act. The Risk Management Agency, RMA, with program delivery through crop insurance agents, provides this coverage. Growers with questions may contact a local crop insurance agent. An agent listing is available at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>. You may also call Jo Lynne Seuffer with USDA RMA, Spokane Regional Office at 800 205 9953.

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**The following operations were newly certified in 2007:**

Pierce, 1743 - Veterinary Resource Group, Inc., Processor – Feed  
Yakima, 1761 - Mark Arstein LLC, Processor – Feed  
Whatcom, 1787 - Uprising Seeds, Handler - Seeds  
Clark, 1805 - Commodities Plus, Inc., Handler - Malts  
Spokane, 1806 - Pasta USA, Corp., Processor - Grocery

**The following operations were suspended in 2006:**

Chelan, 21816 - Lovitt Farms, Inc., Processor – Fruit  
Grant, 1082 - Lee & Dillon Farms – Apples, Grains and Hay  
Whatcom, 1151 - Clearbrook Organic Farms – Berries, Herbs,  
Vegetables  
Walla Walla, 582 - Manzanas Del Rio - Apples  
Oregon, 1244 - Santiam Jerseys – Grains, Hay, Pasture  
Snohomish, 1425 - Clear View Organics - Fallow  
Stevens, 1235 - Summer Sun Organic Gardens – Vegetables  
Stevens, 1314 - Deer Creek Organic Farms – Apples, Vegetables  
Snohomish, 1327 - Charlie's Organic Gardens - Vegetables

**The following operations were revoked in 2006:**

Grant, 98641 - Weidner  
Farms – Processor -  
Herbs  
Grant, 442 – Weidner Farms  
– Herbs  
Whatcom, 532 - Pangborn  
Farms Inc. - Berries  
Lewis, 1303 - Hop Two It -  
Berries

**The following operation  
was fined in 2006:**

Lewis, 1303 - Hop Two It -  
Berries



***Grant Opportunity for Transitional Growers***

USDA Rural Development has a Value-Added Producer's Grant (VAPG) to help producers develop business plans for viable marketing opportunities, including expanding customer bases and ensuring greater revenue for the producer. Agricultural producers could potentially qualify for the value-added program if they are entering into the organic market, versus the traditional market, if it would increase the value of their product. There is planning money to do feasibility studies/business plans or the working capital to implement the plans to emerge into this new market. You can find out more about this grant at their website: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/coops/vadg.htm> or by contacting Tuana Jones, Business and Cooperative Programs Director at 360-704-7707.

by Katherine Withey



***Calendar of Events***

***Diagnosing and Preventing Disease in the Garden class***

April 19. Eugene, OR. Contact OSU/Lane County Extension office at 541-682-4243.

***Is Organic Greenhouse Production Possible? Yes!***

April 19. Everett, WA. Contact Peggy Campbell at 425-357-6024 or visit: [snohomish.wsu.edu/calendar.htm](http://snohomish.wsu.edu/calendar.htm)

***The 6th Annual Sustainable Living Conference***

April 20. Olympia, WA. Contact Maggie Philipsborn at [synergy@evergreen.edu](mailto:synergy@evergreen.edu)/(360)867-6493 or visit: [www.evergreen.edu/synergy](http://www.evergreen.edu/synergy).

***Wine & Viticulture Workshops: Spring/Summer Practices***

April 28. Mt. Vernon, WA. Contact Debra Lancaster at 306-416-7605 or visit [mtvernon.wsu.edu/frt\\_hort/fruit\\_horticulture.htm](http://mtvernon.wsu.edu/frt_hort/fruit_horticulture.htm)

***Livestock Winter Series: Goats***

April 30. Everett, WA. Contact Joan DeVries, Livestock Advisor Program Coordinator at 425-338-2400 ext. 5502 or visit <http://csanr.wsu.edu/calendar/details.asp?event=616>

***Permaculture Clinic: Cultivating Plant Communities in Your Garden***

May 6. Seattle, WA. For more information contact Seattle Tilth Association at (206) 633-0451 or email: [tilth@seattletilth.org](mailto:tilth@seattletilth.org)

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## *Tilth Producers of Washington Farm Walks – Spring 2007*

### ***Monday April 16 - Pine Stump Farm, Omak***

**Diversified Livestock Operation** Carey Hunter and Albert Roberts practice rotational grazing in the Ponderosa Pine understory and raise hay on leased acreage. Pine Stump Farm includes a newly licensed goat dairy and cheese facility with a herd of 45 dairy and meat goats. Come tour layer and fryer chicken operations utilizing chicken-mobiles, a large subsistence garden that capitalizes on capturing water via gravity flow systems and dry weather condition mulching, and a hand-built machine shop that maintains all the equipment for the haying and farming. (Transitioning to organic)

### ***Monday May 7 – Cascadian Home Farm, Rockport***

**Weed Control in Perennial Systems, Compost Production** Recipients of Tilth Producers' 2006 Farmers of the Year Award, Jim and Harlyn Meyer manage 28 certified organic acres and a roadside stand in Skagit Valley. Learn about Jim's innovative approaches to controlling weeds in fresh market blueberries, raspberries and strawberries. Discuss on-farm nutrient cycling during a compost production demonstration, as well as aspects of marketing, machinery and harvest techniques. (Organic)

### ***Monday June 4 – McLean Ranch, Coulee City***

**Ranching and No-Till Grains** Come learn about no-till and direct seeding practices, soil conservation and cattle management in tough, dry conditions. The McLean's have been ranching and farming since 1896 and their ranch was the first agriculture producer to participate in the USDA's Conservation Security Program. Discuss these cutting-edge practices with the McLean family; NRCS range specialist, and WSU scientists doing direct-seed test plots at the ranch. (Non-organic)

### ***Sunday June 17 – Gibbs Organic Produce, Leavenworth***

**Machinery Maintenance Workshop** Master farmer and mechanical wizard Grant Gibbs will lead a hands-on workshop about how to prepare your tractor and other farm equipment to perform at maximum capacity for a trouble-free farming season. Grant will cover what maintenance should be done during the growing season, how to winterize farm machinery, and basic troubleshooting to help diagnose problems before they become too serious. We'll talk about favorite equipment and creative ways to use the equipment you have- bring your questions and stories to share. (Organic)

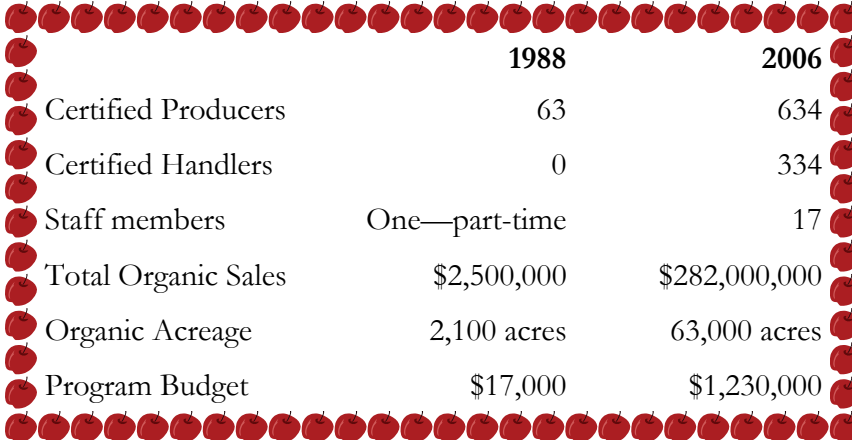
### ***Monday July 30 - Full Circle Farm, Carnation***

**Soil Health Field Day** Healthy soil functions as a vital living system capable of sustaining productivity. WSU-Puyallup soil scientists Doug Collins and Andy Bary are conducting research at Full Circle Farm and other Western Washington farms directed at improving soil health and the monitoring of soil health. This field day will highlight recent research on soil health indicators as well as innovative management practices that promote soil health, including relay cover-cropping. (Organic)



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## *20 Years of Organic Certification at WSDA*



	1988	2006
Certified Producers	63	634
Certified Handlers	0	334
Staff members	One—part-time	17
Total Organic Sales	\$2,500,000	\$282,000,000
Organic Acreage	2,100 acres	63,000 acres
Program Budget	\$17,000	\$1,230,000

On February 1, 2007 the Senate Agriculture Committee held a work session on the WSDA organic certification program. The purpose of the work session was to review the program that the legislature had authorized twenty years ago in 1987. Below is a summary of WSDA's testimony:

The growth in organic and sustainable agriculture in Washington State has been phenomenal. The state's organic food industry has grown substantially over the last 20 years. Farmers markets are thriving and provide a gathering place that improves the quality of life of the community as well as providing economic well being for many small farms. Community supported agriculture supports dozens of farms throughout the state. Domestic and export markets have expanded and provide markets for hundreds of organic farms.

In 1987 the Washington State legislature authorized the establishment of the first state government organic certification program in the United States. The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Organic Food Program certified 63 organic farms in 1988, the first year of the program. These farms were relatively small with total organic sales in 1988 being \$2.5 million. The WSDA Organic Certification Program evolved out of the Tilth Producers certification program. Tilth Producers certified organic farms from 1977-1987 but for a variety of reasons wanted to transfer certification work and authority to the state. WSDA worked with Tilth and the organic community in a spirit of open communication. The agency wisely allowed the organic community to direct the development of the WSDA organic program. WSDA established an Organic Advisory Board that met often to direct the program. Assistance from CCOF and Oregon Tilth was also critical at this time. Members of Tilth Producers believed that government could play a positive role in the development of organic agriculture. At the same time they held a healthy skepticism of WSDA's commitment to organic agriculture. Leaders within WSDA believed that the role of WSDA was to provide a public service to all of the citizens of the state including the organic food industry.

Last year, the WSDA Organic Food Program included nearly 1000 certified organic operations. In addition, WSDA has a material registration program to evaluate and approve products for organic agriculture. Currently there are over 500 products registered. The WSDA Organic Food Program certifies to the US National Organic Standards and the European organic standards. The program is ISO Guide 65 accredited (1999), IFOAM accredited (2004) and has a product acceptance agreement with the Soil Association. The program is recognized in Quebec. The program has cooperative agreements with 2 Japanese certifiers to provide JAS inspections for Washington organic operations and a Memorandum of Understanding with Alaska to provide organic certification for Alaskan producers and handlers. *By Miles McEvoy, Organic Program Manager*

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## *Labeling Certified Transitional Products*

Organic certification requires land to be free of prohibited material applications for 36 months. Land undergoing this waiting period is considered transitioning into organic status. Prior to the implementation of the USDA National Organic Program, WSDA Organic Food Program required transitional certification for land that was in the process of transitioning into organic production. However, the USDA National Organic Program did not adopt transitional certification as part of the federal regulation that went into affect October 2002.

Through a unique program under Washington State Law, WSDA Organic Food Program continues to offer transitional certification on a voluntary basis for producers that wish to market their products as “transitional.” Products certified as “transitional” must meet the same production and handling requirements as an organically certified product, except that the land must have no applications of prohibited materials for one year rather than the three years required for “organic.”

The transitional certification program offers a special market niche to Washington Certified Transitional Products and those operations that are producing and marketing the products. Washington transitional products are now being marketed nation wide, creating new opportunities for farmers and businesses. In some markets, producers are receiving a higher price for transitional products than they would for the conventional counterpart; and consumers are readily supporting transitional products that are undergoing the process to organic certification.

With more producers entering the market, it is important to make clear to consumers that transitional products are not “organic” products. Transitional products do not meet the USDA National Organic Standards for a certified organic product. In order to allow producers the transitional market opportunity, as well as to ensure transitionally certified products do not violate the federal organic labeling standards, WSDA Organic Food Program has developed specific labeling and advertising requirements for Certified Transitional Products. These requirements include:

1. No reference to "organic" may be on a certified transitional package, label, or related marketing information; organic claims are prohibited for transitionally certified products.
2. A certification statement that identifies Washington State Department of Agriculture as the certifier of the product is required on both wholesale and retail packages and labels. Example: Certified Transitional by Washington State Department of Agriculture. This statement must be located directly below or adjacent to the name of the final handler or distributor of the product.
3. The WSDA Transitional Producer Certification Logo may be used to identify products that have been certified as transitional by WSDA.
4. Current documentation verifying the product's transitional certification status (i.e. WSDA Transitional Producer Certificate) must be maintained by the operation that is packaging, labeling, or marketing the product as “transitional.”
5. All transitional labels and related marketing information must be forwarded to the WSDA office for approval prior to use.

During the certification process, WSDA Organic Food Program will be working with producer and handling operations that are currently labeling transitional products to ensure the above requirements are met. If you have any questions about labeling transitional or organic products, please be sure to contact Brenda Book, Organic Certification Coordinator, at (360) 902-2090 or email: [bbook@agr.wa.gov](mailto:bbook@agr.wa.gov).

*by Brenda Book, Organic Certification Coordinator*

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## *Labeling for Products to Quebec*

Does your company export organic fruit or vegetables to Quebec, Canada? If so, you will need to ensure your labels are in compliance, not only with the USDA National Organic Standards, but also with the Quebec standards. The Conseil des Appellations Agroalimentaires du Québec (CAAQ) oversees organic products in Quebec and has set specific requirements for labeling fruit and vegetables that are sold as “organic.” Quebec labeling requirements specify that:

1. Organic fruit and vegetables must, whenever possible, be individually labeled.
2. The name of the certified operations (grower or handler) must be printed on a sticker affixed to each organic fruit or vegetable.
3. The name of the certifying body must also be printed on each sticker.

These requirements may mean a change to the type and size of PLU sticker you are currently applying to your organic produce. If you wish to continue to export to Quebec, or wish to export to Quebec in the future, you will need to ensure your organic produce labels comply with the Quebec requirements in order to avoid any compliance issues or fees from CAAQ. Please note that CAAQ does allow temporary exemptions to continue exporting while you make the needed changes to your labels. However, your company must first apply for this exemption and have a plan in place to make the necessary changes.

Please note that copies of your Quebec labels or stickers should also be forwarded to our office for approval and inclusion in your certification file. Please contact Brenda Book at (360) 902-2090 for more information on labeling fruit and vegetables that will be exported to Quebec. *By Brenda Book, Organic Program Specialist*



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## *New Staff Member*



Michelle Lucero

**Michelle Lucero** Michelle Lucero is an organic program specialist who joined our team in February. Michelle will provide certification services for handlers and processors. Prior to transferring to the Organic Program, Michelle worked for the Food Safety Program for over six years. Her experience there included working in support of the dairy and food programs. She coordinated stakeholder advisory committees, wrote grant applications, reviewed applications and inspections, and coordinated consumer complaint investigations and advanced enforcement action. Michelle enjoys spending time with her family and friends, playing in her jug band and singing karaoke.

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## BRAND NAME MATERIAL LIST UPDATE

March 31, 2007

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 March 31, 2007. You may access a complete updated Brand Name Materials List at the WSDA Organic Food Program website: <http://agr.wa.gov/foodanimal/organic/default.htm>. If you are certified by a certification agency other than WSDA, check with your certifier prior to the use of any material not listed in your System Plan

PRODUCT NAME	COMPANY NAME	PRODUCT SUB-TYPE	PRODUCT TYPE	RESTRICTIONS
ASL Soluble Seaweed Extract Powder 1-1-17	Acadian AgriTech (Division of Acadian Seaplants)	Kelp Extract	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
B-17 Boric Acid Spray	Nutrient Technologies, Inc.	Soluble Boron Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
Benefox	Agroganic Products LLC	Microbial Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
BioHumic Acid	BioScientific, Inc.	Humic Acid	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
BlightBan A506	Nu Farm, Inc.	Blight Control	Disease & Pest Control	Label Use Only
Blu-Min 10% Lignin Zinc	Bay Zinc. Co, Inc.	Zinc Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Constant BUpH-er™	Northwest Agricultural Products	Acidifying Agent	Crop Production Aid	Label Use Only
Denali Gold	Alaska Organics LLC	Alaskan Humus	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Down to Earth All Purpose 4-6-2	Down To Earth Distributors	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Down to Earth Liquid Fish and Kelp 3-2-2	Down To Earth Distributors	Liquid Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Down to Earth Rose & Flower Mix 4-8-4	Down To Earth Distributors	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Must be used in compliance with NOP 205.203(c)
First Choice Sluggo Snail and Slug Bait	Western Farm Service, Inc.	Ferric Phosphate	Disease & Pest Control	Label Use Only
Fishilizer	Port Organic Products Ltd.	Fish Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Fishilizer Plus K	Port Organic Products Ltd.	Fish Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
GreenMatch O Burndown Herbicide	Cutting Edge Formulations, Inc.	Herbicide	Disease & Pest Control	Label Use Only
Hendrikus Organics Bouquet 4-8-4 Flower, Rose & Bulb Food	Hendrikus Organics	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Hendrikus Organics Complete 6-4-4 All Purpose Fertilizer	Hendrikus Organics	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Hendrikus Organics Organobloom 5-2-4 Rhododendron - Azalea Fertilizer	Hendrikus Organics	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Hendrikus Organics Season 8-2-4 Turf Fertilizer	Hendrikus Organics	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Hendrikus Organics Soil Enhancer 2-13-0	Hendrikus Organics	Biological Soil Enhancer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Hendrikus Organics Spring Nitrogen 10-1-2	Hendrikus Organics	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
LiquiFish	Agroganic Products LLC	Fish Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
LiquiFish - C - Weed	Agroganic Products LLC	Fish Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
LiquiFish - K	Agroganic Products LLC	Fish Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
LiquiFish - N	Agroganic Products LLC	Fish Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Marizyme	Port Organic Products Ltd.	Fish Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Marizyme Plus K	Port Organic Products Ltd.	Fish Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None

Remember to always contact your certifier prior to the use of any material that is not in your Organic System Plan!!



Micro 108 Seed Inoculant	Natural Industries, Inc.	Seed Inoculant	Crop Production Aid	Label Use Only
Nature's Avenger Organic Ready to Use Herbicide	Cutting Edge Formulations, Inc.	Herbicide	Disease & Pest Control	Label Use Only
Nature's Shield 440-BF	Pace International LLC	Chlorine Buffer	Post Harvest Material	Label Use Only
Organic Biolink Manganese 6%	Westbridge Agricultural Products	Manganese Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
Organic BioLink Vegan Nitrogen	Westbridge Agricultural Products	Nitrogen Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Organic Garden Blend	Walt's Organic Fertilizer Co.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Cal QC	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Calcium Chloride	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Only for use as a foliar spray to treat physiological disorders associated with calcium update [205.602(c)]
Phyta-Green Natural and Organic Lawn Fertilizer	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing.
Phyta-Grow Veggie-Mix 8-5-1	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Molasses QC	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Molasses	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Set QC	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Calcium Chloride	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Only for use as a foliar spray to treat physiological disorders associated with calcium update [205.602(c)]
Phyto-Plus Cobalt 3.0%	Baicor, L.L.C.	Cobalt Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
Phyto-Plus Copper 5.0%	Baicor, LLC	Copper Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Must be used in a manner that minimized copper accumulation in the soil. Soil deficiency must be documented by testing.
Phyto-Plus Micro-Plenty	Baicor, L.L.C.	Chelated Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
ProNatural B	Wilbur Ellis Co.	Boron	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
ProNatural Hydrolyzed Fish	Wilbur Ellis Co.	Fish Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Rainy Pacific NW Blend 7-4-9	Walt's Organic Fertilizer Co.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
SuperGanic	Agroganic Products LLC	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Tetra-Bor 17 Commercial Grade Boric Acid	Tetra Micronutrients, Inc.	Boron	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing

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## *Regulatory Changes to Affect Organic Products*

**Be sure your products comply with the USDA National Organic Standards after June 9, 2007!**

Do you manufacture, label, or market organic products that contain non-organic ingredients? As of June 9, 2007 all non-organically produced agricultural ingredients or substances must be listed in Section 205.606 of the National Organic Standards for the final product to be sold, labeled, or represented as "organic." This includes all non-organic agricultural ingredients or substances that were previously approved by WSDA Organic Food Program as being commercially unavailable in an organic form. If you use non-organic ingredients that do not appear in Section 205.606 you must relabel your products as "made with organic (list up to three ingredients)." All organically labeled products, and corresponding packaging (labels), manufactured on or after June 9, 2007 must be in compliance with this change. If you have any questions about this regulatory change, please contact Brenda Book at 360-902-2090 or email: [bbook@agr.wa.gov](mailto:bbook@agr.wa.gov).

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## ***New and Replacement Vehicles for the Organic Food Program***

In January of 2005, Washington's Governor Locke signed Executive Order 05-01 entitled "Establishing Sustainability and Efficiency Goals for State Operations". This order states that "agencies take all reasonable actions to achieve a target of a 20% reduction in petroleum use in the operation of state vehicles ... by September 1, 2009. State agencies shall give priority to the purchase and use of hybrid gas/electric and other fuel efficient/low emission and new petroleum efficient vehicles". Agencies are also to prioritize the replacement of pre-1996 vehicles that are driven more than 2,000 miles per year.

Historically, the Organic Food Program has obtained vehicles from other state programs when they purchased new cars. These vehicles usually had over 100,000 miles on them and we would repair the cars so they were safe and "road worthy". This would double our cost of the newly purchased "old" vehicle. Two years ago all of our vehicles were pre-1996, not fuel-efficient and were costing the program many dollars in maintenance. This was decidedly poor stewardship of our funds and did not align with the philosophy of the organic program to be environmentally friendly and sustainable. So we have embarked on the quest of replacing all of our old worn-out cars (one had over 200,000 miles on it !!) with hybrid and fuel efficient ones. In the past two years we have purchased two Toyota Prius hybrids, one Ford Escape hybrid, and one Dodge Stratus. We have heard many good comments from our applicants and the inspectors are spending fewer hours waiting for their cars to be repaired and back on the road. As our program continues to grow we will be adding more vehicles to our fleet so that we may accommodate newly hired employees and rotate the high mileage vehicles out of service. In the future we will also consider bio-diesel vehicles as they become available for state contract purchase. In that way we can further support the agriculture industry in our state by utilizing home grown fuels to transport us to our customer's organic sites.. *By Les Eklund, Organic Field Supervisor*

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## ***New Staff Member***

**Linda Condon** Linda Condon is the new organic crop certification coordinator for WSDA's Organic Food Program. She believes in keeping our state's rural communities thriving and that organic production is one way for producers to garner a better price for their efforts. Linda has a Bachelor of Arts degree from The Evergreen State College and has worked with the State Department of Agriculture since 1994. She has worked for both the Organic Food Program and for the Food Safety Program.

Linda completed The Washington Agriculture and Forestry Leadership Program last May. While participating in the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Leadership Program (AgForestry), she produced a video documentary for the shellfish industry. It showcases four communities taking responsibility for the environmental health of water systems in the Puget Sound and Willapa Bay. The video helped secure a multi-million dollar grant to expand a pilot project from Willapa Bay to the Hood Canal. Some day she'd like to do a video on organic agriculture.



Linda Condon

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## *Use of Treated Wood on the Organic Farm*

The US National Organic Standards prohibit the use of treated wood for new installations and replacement purposes. The standards state:

**§ 205.206(f) Crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.**

The producer must not use lumber treated with arsenate or other prohibited materials for new installations or replacement purposes in contact with soil or livestock.

WSDA has received numerous questions about the use of treated wood especially its use in orchard trellis systems. In the January 2006 Quarterly Report we reported that plastic wrapped treated posts were not allowed. The WSDA Organic Advisory Board has recommended that plastic wrapped treated wood should be allowed in orchard trellis systems. WSDA has consulted with the USDA National Organic Program on this issue and they have clearly indicated that treated wood, including plastic wrapped treated wood, is not compliant with organic standards.

WSDA is providing the following clarification on the use of treated wood in organic production systems.

### ***Trellis systems***

1. Treated wood is not allowed within trellis systems for new or replacement purposes. Newly established transitional or organic orchards may not use treated wood for a new trellis system. Treated wood in existing trellis systems is allowed under organic standards. Replacement wood used in existing trellis systems must not be treated.
2. Setting treated wood in concrete, or wrapping treated wood with plastic is not permitted under organic standards.
3. Wood used for other purposes within an organic orchard or vineyard (e.g. end posts, netting posts) must not be treated.

### ***Raised beds***

Treated wood is not allowed in raised beds.

### ***Greenhouse operations***

Treated wood is prohibited in greenhouses where the wood is in contact with the soil used to produce organic crops.

### ***Resources on alternative to treated wood***

Information on organic alternatives to treated lumber is available from ATTRA at [www.attra.ncat.org](http://www.attra.ncat.org). ATTRA is the national sustainable agriculture information service operated by the National Center for Appropriate Technology, USDA.



***New Organic Research Land at WSU*** - The WSU Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center recently purchased a new research orchard south of Wenatchee. The 150 acre site contains 80 acres of apples that have been certified organic for over 10 years. This provides WSU with a unique base of “stable” organic soil, and adjacent conventional soil, for comparisons of changes in soil biology with different management systems. Plans are being developed for long-term organic experiments on the site. This resource will serve the expanding organic tree fruit sector in the state, where 10% of the state’s apple acreage is expected to be certified organic by 2009. The WSU BIOAg (Biologically Intensive Agriculture and Organic Farming) program, with support from the Agriculture Research Center, has been working to develop organic land at all the WSU research facilities. There is currently designated organic research land at Puyallup, Mt. Vernon, Wenatchee, and Pullman. For more information, feel free to contact David Granatstein, WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, at [granats@wsu.edu](mailto:granats@wsu.edu) .

***Organic Advisory Board*** - The next meeting of the Organic Advisory Board is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2007, in Ellensburg. Agenda items include transitional certification for new land, a fee increase proposal, and international issues. If you have comments or would like to attend, please contact the office.

*“Fertility of the soil is the future of civilization” Sir Albert Howard*



***Mission Statement***

*The USDA 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 program supports the development of export markets by providing certification to foreign organic standards.*