



# QUARTERLY REPORT

## Farmers Market Inspections

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Farmers markets are thriving with over 100 markets operating in Washington state. Organic products are prevalent at many markets. Protecting the organic label and enforcing organic standards is extremely important in order to ensure consumer confidence in organic products and to create a level playing field for certified organic farms. In order to protect organic integrity at farmers markets we will be conducting surveillance inspections at many farmers markets this year.

David Simpson, Organic Inspector from Olympia, is leading the farmers market surveillance inspection project. The plan is to inspect the majority of farmers markets in the state with specific emphasis on the Puget Sound region. The farmers market inspections involve meeting with the market manager to explain the inspection process and then visiting each market stand that is making organic claims. We inspect certified organic operations to ensure that the organic products being sold are the same products that are listed on their certificate. We inspect split operations to ensure that only organic products are labeled as organic. If a market stand is making organic claims but is not certified organic, the inspector obtains contact information and explains the organic certification requirements. Those operations are requested to provide evidence that they are exempt or excluded from certification requirements. If they are not exempt from certification they are notified that they cannot label or represent their products as organic unless they obtain organic certification.

In June, inspections were conducted at six markets. During these inspections we found that the majority of organic products are properly labeled and certified. The June surveillance inspections revealed two growers that were making organic claims and were not certified. One of these farms was a new farm and had under \$5,000 in sales and therefore is exempt from certification. The other farm was notified that they are required to obtain organic certification if they wish to continue to sell, label and represent their products as organic.

*By Miles McEvoy, Organic Program Manager*

## Let Your Voice Be Heard!

The NOP has issued an interim final rule on 205.606, which addresses the use of non-organic agricultural ingredients allowed in 'organic' products. This rule originally listed only five ingredients, but an additional 38 ingredients are being reviewed. This interim rule is effective as of June 21, 2007. The rule will be reviewed again after an allowed comment period. All comments received by **August 27, 2007** will be considered prior to the issuance of the final rule. The NOP is especially interested in receiving comments from industry. The full document, including a list of the additional 38 ingredients and directions for submitting comments, can be found at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/Newsroom/FedRegNoticeTM-07-06InterimFinalRule062207.pdf>

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## Upholding Organic Standards

Over the last three years the Organic Food Program has received 35 complaints alleging violations of organic standards. Complaints have included:

- Organic grower buying conventional produce and selling it as organic
- Organic fruit having pesticide residues
- Organic pasta product labeled as WSDA certified organic that is not certified by WSDA
- Spray drift of prohibited pesticides onto an organic farm.
- Non-certified bakery using organic in their business name.

We take each complaint seriously and we investigate complaints when necessary to protect organic integrity. We have established a complaint procedure to help ensure that complaints are processed and addressed in an orderly and timely manner. Anyone may file a complaint concerning either the performance of the WSDA Organic Food Program or violations of organic standards. Complaints must be initiated within 30 days of when the alleged violation occurred. Complaints are usually received by telephone, but they may be received in writing or in person. After a complaint is received, we evaluate the best way to investigate the complaint. Inspections may be conducted and samples may be taken if there are allegations of mislabeling or use of prohibited substances.

If violations are found, actions are taken to enforce the organic standards. Actions may include but are not limited to the following:

- Issuing a Notice of Noncompliance;
- Issuing a Denial, Proposed Suspension, or Revocation of Certification;
- Referring the complaint to the National Organic Program;
- Civil penalties.

We attempt to resolve all complaints within 90 days of receiving the complaint. At the end of the process a written resolution of the complaint is completed and a copy is provided to the complainant.

### How to file a complaint

If you wish to file a complaint, call or write to the WSDA Organic Food Program (phone – 360-902-1805, email [organic@agr.wa.gov](mailto:organic@agr.wa.gov), address: POB 42560, Olympia, WA 98504). Include your name and contact information so that we can follow up with additional clarifying questions. Complainants may remain anonymous upon request. When you file a complaint please include as much relevant information as possible, including names, phone numbers, location of alleged violation, and other information as appropriate to the complaint.

*By Miles McEvoy, Organic Program Manager*



## Farm Bill Includes Funding for Organic Certification

The House version of the 2007 Farm Bill includes \$22 million of new funding for the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program. The House 2007 Farm Bill would reimburse organic producers and handlers for 90% of the certification costs up to a maximum payment of \$750 per year. The 2002 Farm Bill allocated \$5 million for the program. WSDA administered the program for three years until funding ran out in April 2006. About the 2007 Farm Bill and the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program can be found at <http://agriculture.house.gov/inside/2007FarmBill.html>. You can contact your congressional representative with your comments on the Farm Bill.

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## Coming and Going

### Hello to Loren



Welcome the newest addition to the organic family!! Brenda Book had a beautiful baby girl on May 31, 2007. Loren Marjorie (photo at left) was born at 11:02 am, 6lbs 5ozs. Brenda will be back with us on a part-time basis mid-July and ease back into a fulltime work week. We sure have missed her!

Brenda thanks everyone who sent their well wishes and congratulations.

### Farewell to Mindy

Mindy Ballinger has worked for the Organic Food Program for the last two years. She has provided administrative support for the Materials Registration Program and the Export Program as well as contributing in many other ways to the success of the program. We have mixed emotions in announcing that Mindy Ballinger has decided to take a job with the Department of Ecology in the Water Quality Program. Her last day is July 13.



Mindy has been an incredible asset to the program. Mindy is hard working, reliable and a great person to work with. She has worked hard to help the Reviewers and Coordinators meet their goals in getting reviews done in a timely manner. She is always there to offer a helping hand. Her smile is contagious; she is the kind of person that makes you feel good to be around. There is a long list of things that Mindy has done to help the Program be successful. She will be hard to replace and we know that she will be as much of an asset to the Water Quality Program as she has been to the Organic Food Program.

## Calendar of Events

**Alternative Energy Around the Home and Farm** - Aug. 8, Maple Valley, WA. Information: (206) 205-3100, or visit: <http://www.king.wsu.edu/events.htm>.

**Sustainable Small Acreage Farming at Quilliscut Farm School of the Domestic Arts** – Aug. 8-12, Rice, WA. Contact: Rick and Lora Lea Mysterly, at [rmysterly@ultraplix.com](mailto:rmysterly@ultraplix.com) (509) 738-2011.

**Homegrown Tree Fruit** - Sept. 11, Everett, WA. -. WSU Snohomish County Extension (Evergreen Room). 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Information and registration: call 425-338-2400 or visit <http://snobomish.wsu.edu/calendar.htm>

### Organic Seed Variety Trials

The Organic Seed Alliance is hosting field days. Learn how to conduct on-farm variety trials and evaluate performance under organic conditions. Organic certification agency representatives and extension agents will be present to discuss organic seed compliance issues. Please visit [www.seedalliance.org](http://www.seedalliance.org) for more information.

- September 19, Gaston, OR. Drying Chiles and sweet potatoes at Ayers Creek Farm.
- August 30, Royal City, WA. Butternut squash and yellow onions at Brian Anderson Farms.
- September date tba, Mt Vernon, WA.. Brussels sprouts and cauliflower at

## BRAND NAME MATERIAL LIST UPDATE - July 1, 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 July 1, 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>.

Brand Name	Company Name	Product Sub-Type	Product Type	Restrictions
Agroneem Plus	Agro Logistic Systems, Inc.	Neem	Disease & Pest Control	Label Use Only
Sel-Plex 2000	Alltech, Inc.	Selenium Yeast	Livestock Production Aid	Label Use Only
Yea-Sacc 1026	Alltech, Inc.	Yeast Culture	Livestock Production Aid	Label Use Only
SEA - CROP™	Ambrosia Technology LLC	Soil Amendment	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
CHB Iron 5%	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Iron Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
CHB Magnesium 4%	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Magnesium Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
CHB Manganese 5%	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Manganese Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
CHB Zinc 10%	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Zinc Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
CHB Zinc 7%	Bio-Gro, Inc.	Zinc Sulfate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
Great Big Plants	BioScientific, Inc.	Liquid Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
K-Max Plus	BioScientific, Inc.	Liquid Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Maxi-K	BioScientific, Inc.	Liquid Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Super-K Organic	BioScientific, Inc.	Liquid 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 uptake
Phyta-Green Natural and Organic Lawn Fertilizer 7-4-2	California Organic Fertilizers Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Green Organic Turf and Horticulture Fertilizer 8-2-2	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing.
Phyta-Grow Big Red 12-0-0	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Nitrogen Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Grow Bone Meal 5-10-0	California Organic Fertilizers Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Grow Citrus Avocado Mix with 1% Zinc 8-5-4	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing.
Phyta-Grow Coastal Mix 9-1-7	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Grow Guano Mix #1 12-3-1	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Grow Guano Mix #2 10-5-1	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Grow Guano Mix #3 (Red) 13-6-1	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Grow Guano Mix #4 9-7-4	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Grow Guano Plus 11-5-2	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Grow Guano Row Crop Mix 9-8-1	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Grow Ichaboe Plus 11-10-3	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Composted Manure	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None

Phyta-Grow Pre-Plant & Zinc 8-2-2	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Soil deficiency must be documented by testing
Phyta-Grow Pre-Plant Plus 7-5-7	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Grow Salinas Veggie-Mix 8-4-4	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Grow Super "N" 12-0-0	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Nitrogen Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Grow Veggie Mix 8-5-1	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phyta-Grow Veggie-Mix Nitrate 9-4-1	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Blended Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Use restricted to no more than 20% of the crops total nitrogen requirement [205.602(g)]
Phytamin 250	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Liquid Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phytamin 344	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Liquid Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phytamin 421	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Liquid Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phytamin 434	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Liquid Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phytamin 521 Nitrate "Phytalizer"	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Liquid Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Use restricted to no more than 20% of the crops total nitrogen requirement [205.602(g)]
Phytamin 531	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Liquid Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Use restricted to no more than 20% of the crops total nitrogen requirement [205.602(g)]
Phytamin 801	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Liquid Fertilizer	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phytamin Fish 522	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Fish Product	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Phytamin Phyta-Max	California Organic Fertilizers, Inc.	Liquid 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 uptake
Bio-D Agricultural Formula with Humus	Chapin Farms	Compost Tea	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	Must be used in compliance with NOP 205.203(c)(1)
JCE Organic Humate	JCE Organic	Mined Mineral	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
JCE Organic Micronized Humate	JCE Organic	Humic Acid	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Invelop Maximum SPF	Luzenac America, Inc.	Crop Protectant	Crop Production Aid	Label Use Only
CALPHOS 0-3-0	North Pacific Ag Products	Rock Phosphate	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None
Northwest Ag Products IWCpH	Northwest Agricultural Products	Irrigation Water Conditioner	Crop Production Aid	None
Pro Natural Soil Quality Enhancer	Wilbur Ellis Co.	Biological Soil Amendment	Fertilizer & Soil Amendment	None

**OMRI Lists Available** - When the OFP became a member of OMRI, we were given a number of OMRI Brand Name Lists and OMRI Generic Material Lists as part of our membership. These can be invaluable tools for you when you are looking at materials in the field. We have approximately 90 of each list, so if you would like one, please contact our office at (360) 902-1805. Since we have a limited number of copies (90 copies of each list, they are available on first-come, first-serve basis.

## Financial Assistance Available to Organic Growers

### ***Environmental Quality Incentives Program - EQIP***

Fruit growers in Washington can now get assistance to support the additional cost of using environmentally sound farming practices such as organic management. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The program provides technical and financial assistance to eligible growers for the use of conservation practices on their farms.

Here are examples of the types of practices you might consider for your farm:

- **Integrated pest management** – includes use of monitoring, mating disruption and use of reduced risk pesticides.
- **Nutrient management** – use of soil and leaf samples to assist in determining fertilizer needs.
- **Irrigation water management** – monitoring soil moisture to determine how often and how much to irrigate.
- **Irrigation system improvements** - conversion of rill irrigation or impact sprinkler (the latter in North Central WA only) to microsprinkler or drip irrigation.
- **Establishing wildlife habitat** - planting hedgerows, riparian buffers, and field borders.
- **Planting windbreaks** - to reduce potential for pesticide drift.

Practices such as these can be included in a contract because they protect a natural resource. Growers who are willing to apply multiple practices that improve more than one resource are more likely to have their applications approved.

To apply for financial assistance, the first step is to contact your county NRCS office and set up an appointment with a conservationist. See <http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/fieldoffices.html> to locate your nearest USDA Service Center. The deadline for submitting applications is November 16, 2007. The NRCS will let you know whether or not your application is funded. Contracts are usually finalized and signed by May or later. No work is funded retroactively. For more information visit <http://www.treefruitresearch.com/eqip-program-information/>, or contact Naná Simone, Washington tree fruit industry EQIP coordinator: 509-667-9557, [nanas@nwi.net](mailto:nanas@nwi.net).

### ***Organic Farming Research Foundation – OFRF***

The purpose of the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) is to foster the improvement and widespread adoption of organic farming practices. They provide grants for research on organic farming and for the dissemination of these research results to the greater agricultural community. Grant proposals should articulate how the research project will foster the improvement or adoption of organic farming systems. Farmers must be involved in the research project, and the research must be conducted on working organic farms. Project proposals are reviewed and awarded by the OFRF Board of Directors, the majority of whom are certified organic producers. The OFRF has funded a number of organic farming research projects in Washington state. Their website can be found at [www.ofrf.org](http://www.ofrf.org).



Kestrel boxes such as this one can provide wildlife habitat for your farm.

## New Staff Members

The Organic Food Program (OFP) has been experiencing rapid growth over the past year. As a result of this increased workload, we have hired two new organic field inspectors. They started working for the OFP on June 11th, and spent the last three weeks in June training to become organic inspectors.



Del Long (photo at left) was hired to work in the Tri-Cities area, out of a home office based in Richland, WA. Del has extensive knowledge and work experience in orchard management, including managing an organic orchard. Del has also has experience in fruit handling facilities, and was responsible for packing organic products. His territory will include Benton, Franklin, Eastern Yakima, and Walla Walla Counties. We feel very fortunate to have hired a person with good understanding of organic agriculture in the southeast part of Washington.

Michael Hackett (photo at right) was hired to work in the northwest part of Washington, out of a home office based just north of Mt. Vernon. Michael has extensive knowledge of the agricultural systems in that part of our state. He has spent the past 26 years working for WSU extension service, from which he recently took his retirement. He knows many of the organic farmers through his work with WSU and has been active in assisting direct marketing activities. Michael's territory will include King, Snohomish, Island, San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom Counties. We feel very fortunate to have hired a person with Michael's abilities to handle the organic inspection duties in northwest Washington. *By Les Eklund, Organic Field Supervisor*



## The Organic Food Program is Hiring!

As you can see from the figures on page 8, the Organic Food Program is experiencing tremendous growth in the 2007 season. To keep up with this growth, we are hoping to add two new positions and fill one open position. We will be hiring the following staff, all based in Olympia:

- **Receptionist** - answers phones, organizes meetings, copies and mails correspondence, etc.
- **Organic Certification Specialist** - reviews applications and inspection reports to determine compliance with National Organic Standards
- **Organic Material Review Specialist** - reviews material input applications and assists in the publication of the Brand Name Material List.

We expect to officially announce these positions in July or August. If you are interested in working for the program please check the "Hot Topics" link on our website.

## Growth in the WSDA Organic Food Program

<b>Number of Operations, Number of Sites, and Acreage</b>			
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Producers (1)	636 operations	743 operations	15 %
Processors / handlers ( 2)	315 operations	351 operations	11 %
Number of sites ( 3)	1685 sites	2318 sites	38 %
Acreage ( 4)	70,000 acres	100,000 acres	43 %
Note 1: Includes 45 producers outside of Washington state. Note 2: Includes 49 operations outside of Washington state. Note 3: Includes organic and transitional land. Note 4: Includes organic and transitional land in WA. Figures are approximate.			

<b>Sales of Organic Products</b>			
<b>Type of operation</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Producers	\$112 million	\$149 million	33 %
Processors	\$82 million	\$94 million	15 %
Handlers	\$244 million	\$261 million	7 %
Total	\$438 million	\$503 million	15 %

### 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 program supports the development of export markets by providing certification to foreign organic standards.

*“The agriculturalist is the servant of the plant.”*

By Louise Howard, research partner of Sir Albert Howard.