

# **Professional Development Training for Organic Certification Agencies**

**January 26 – 28, 2010  
Savannah, GA**

**Including  
National Organic Program Certifier Training**

hosted by



**Accredited Certifiers Association, Inc.**

and



# ACA / NASOP Professional Development Training

## Schedule

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January 26, 2010	9 am to 5 pm	<b>National Organic Program Certifier Training</b> Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administrator Mark Bradley, Chief – Accreditation, Auditing, & Training Other NOP Staff
January 27, 2010	8 am to 5:15 pm	<b>ACA / NASOP Professional Development Training</b>
January 28, 2010	8:15 am to 5 pm	<b>ACA / NASOP Professional Development Training</b> Also: ACA Annual Meeting NASOP Annual Meeting

## Location

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### **The Inn at Ellis Square**

201 West Bay Street  
Savannah, GA 31401  
Telephone: (877) 542.7666  
[www.innatellissquare.com](http://www.innatellissquare.com)

- Located in Savannah's Historic District within easy walking distance of many restaurants and other attractions.
- A block of rooms have been reserved for training attendees (until 12.25.2009) with the following rates:

Doubles:	\$109.00 plus tax*
Suites:	\$129.00 plus tax*

\*includes complimentary continental breakfast
- Call **The Inn at Ellis Square** directly to book your room; tell them you are with the Accredited Certifiers Association meeting.

# ACA / NASOP Professional Development Training Agenda

January 27, 2010

8:00 am Welcome

## 8:15 – 10:15 Evaluation of Inspectors

This Panel Discussion will focus on the process and tools used to evaluate inspectors from the perspective of certification agencies that primarily use contract inspectors and certification agencies that utilize staff inspectors. In addition we will identify how to develop effective means of obtaining feedback from inspectors.

### *Participants*

Brett Bakker, New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission  
Kristy Korb, Oregon Tilth Certified Organic  
Leslie McKinnon, formerly Texas Department of Agriculture  
Amy Stafford, International Certification Services  
Robert Yang, Pennsylvania Certified Organic

## 10:15 – 10:30 Break

## 10:30 – 12:00 Oversight of NOP's Accreditation System: Anticipating Trickle-down Effects on ACAs

Last July, USDA Deputy Director, Kathleen Merrigan, announced her decision to have NOP apply for recognition by NIST's NVCASE program, which provides auditing and oversight of accreditation bodies. Merrigan stated that applying for and receiving NIST recognition will "support the NOP's credentials as an accreditation program and satisfy the organic law's peer review requirements." This presentation will focus on likely implications of this decision on the ACAs:

- What is NIST recognition?
- What advantages might certifiers and other organic stakeholders anticipate as a result of NIST oversight of the NOP's accreditation program?
- What changes might be present challenges for certifiers? ;
- How can certifiers weather – and even benefit from – a NIST Witness Audit?
- How does NIST recognition relate to the NOP's requirements for establishing a Peer Review Panel?

*Presenter:* Lynn Coody, Organic Agsystems Consulting

## 12:00 – 1:30 Lunch (on your own)

## 1:30 – 2:30 International Issues

An update regarding trade issues, including accreditation requirements, with Korea and Taiwan.

*Presenter:* Kelly Strzelecki, USDA/Foreign Agricultural Service *Invited*

## 2:30 – 2:45 Break

## 2:45 – 3:45 Food Safety Issues Update and a sample of Verification Programs.

Pending legislation regarding food safety issues will likely impact organic producers. We will discuss the status of the legislation and present ideas on how your program may help producers in meeting food safety requirements

### *Participants:*

Marty Mesh, Quality Certification Services  
Connie Karr, Oregon Tilth Certified Organic  
Jacomijn Schraresande-Gardei, MOFGA Certification Services

## 3:45 – 5:15 NOP Policies as disseminated through accreditation audits – what is your experience?

An open discussion among certification agency staff regarding accreditation audit process and findings.

*Facilitators:* Jake Lewin, CCOF Certification Services & Leslie Zuck, Pennsylvania Certified Organic

***Note: this session is limited to certification agency staff only.***

# ACA / NASOP Professional Development Training Agenda

January 28, 2010

8:15 am Welcome and any questions from previous day.

## 8:30 – 10:30 Materials Review Programs

Panelists will share the workings of their materials review systems.

### *Participants:*

Annie Berical, OCIA International  
Jake Lewin, CCOF Certification Services  
Susan Siple, Organic Certifiers Inc.  
Jackie Von Ruden, Midwest Organic Services Assoc.

## 10:30 – 10:45 Break

## 10:45 – 11:45 Product Label Review

Hands on review of two product labels, identifying resources, sample forms.

**Presenter:** Emily Brown Rosen, Pennsylvania Certified Organic

## 11:45 – 12:15 Update of the Organic Trade Association Fertilizer Verification Task Force Activities

An update of the activities of the Task Force, including a research project to develop testing protocols to assure the quality of fertilizer materials for organic agriculture and development of system plan guidelines for review of materials.

### *Participants:*

Emily Brown Rosen, Pennsylvania Certified Organic  
Dave DeCou, Organic Materials Review Institute

## 12:15 – 1:45 Working Lunch

Attendees will have an option to hear Cathy Greene, USDA Economic Research Service, present information on Market Trends and Findings from the ERS Organic Research Program. Cathy will also discuss ways to make ERS data collection from certifiers less burdensome. Lunch is pay at the door.

## 2:00 – 5:00 Split Session

2:00 – 3:30 ACA Annual Meeting

3:30 – 3:45 Break

3:45 – 5:00 Open Forum

- Discussions on various topics including
- Handling unannounced inspections
  - How deep to go in materials review
  - Others

NASOP Annual Meeting

## ACA / NASOP Professional Development Training Registration

Registration must be received by: January 15, 2010

### Registrant Information

Name:

Company:

Address:

City:

ST

Zip

Phone:

E-mail:

No. of  
Registrants

Fee

Total

ACA / NASOP Member

\$240.00

Non Member ACA / NASOP

\$290.00

List Names of Additional Registrants:

**Note:** There is no fee to attend the National Organic Program Certifier Training, but you must register with the National Organic Program.

Registration fee includes break refreshments; lunch and dinner on your own.

*Please make check payable to:*  
Accredited Certifiers Association, Inc.

*Mail to:*  
PO Box 472  
Port Crane, NY 13833

*For additional information contact:*  
Patricia Kane, ACA Coordinator  
607.648.3259 phone/fax or  
[patriciakane@accreditedcertifiers.org](mailto:patriciakane@accreditedcertifiers.org)