



The ACA Guidewire

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Upcoming ACA Activities

November 3, 2009

1 ACA members attending the National Organic Standards Board Meeting, in Washington, D.C., November 3 – 5, at the Washington Plaza Hotel, are invited to attend an ACA Meeting on November 3, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm.

2 We will discuss current NOSB topics, review status of the various working groups, and discuss the upcoming ACA and NASOP Professional Development Training. The meeting will be held in the State Suite, Washington Plaza Hotel.

January 26, 27 & 28, 2010

3 Join your fellow ACA members for our annual Professional Development training session.. this year, for the first time, in the South – in storied, historic Savannah, Georgia. The National Organic Program will be providing a one day training in conjunction with our event on January 26. New Program Director of the NOP, Miles McEvoy, will be in attendance along with other key NOP Staff. On January 27 & 28, 2010, the ACA and the National Association of State Organic Programs (NASOP) will collaborate in presenting a series of educational programs designed to keep our member organizations on top of the rapidly changing organic scene. In addition, ACA and NASOP will both host our Annual Membership Meetings during our time in Savannah.

You all know, from previous meetings, that some of the most productive discussions and connections of our events take place informally in the evenings and we've been assured that our meeting site is surrounded by great restaurants within easy walking distance.

Especially for our northern members...here's your chance to ditch the snow and cold and join us for some southern hospitality in Savannah. We look forward to seeing you all.

Working Groups Develop Guidance Documents

The ACA Poultry Outside Access Working Group has recently completed work on the Organic Poultry Production Guidance Document. The Apiculture Working Group is nearing completion of their Guidance Document.

ACA members distributed our draft documents to their clients for comments, and we received a good number of substantive comments from producers, inspectors, trade groups, and industry specialists. The Working Groups made revisions based on the comments received.

These documents will be submitted to the National Organic Standards Board and the National Organic Program in the hope that these will assist in the development of either additional National Organic Program standards, or at a minimum the issuance of National Organic Program Guidance Documents on Apiculture and

Organic Poultry Production.

ACA members participating in the Working Groups have contributed significant time for this work. The Poultry and Apiculture Groups have met via conference call 10 times (each) for one hour each call!

Many thanks to the representatives of the following members for their participation:

BCS Okeo Guarantie	OTCO
CCOF	PCO
HOFA	QAI
MOFGA	QCS
MOSA	VOF
OneCert	WSDA

In addition, thanks to Harriet Behar for her participation.

ACA Submits Comments to NOSB

The NOSB Comments Working Group drafted comments regarding the Animal Welfare Recommendation of the NOSB Livestock Committee that ACA will submit as public comment. ACA is supportive of the inclusion of animal welfare requirements in the National Organic Standards, however, the Committee recommendation results in a major revision in the requirements for poultry in particular and ACA believes that 30 days is not adequate time to obtain feedback from the organic community. ACA is requesting that the NOSB change this

recommendation to a *discussion* document to allow time for additional input and discussion. Included with the ACA Comments, were the Organic Poultry Production Guidance Document and our Chart of the Canadian Livestock Space Requirements with the US Equivalent. We also identified the differences between the ACA Poultry Guidance Document and the NOSB Livestock Committee Recommendation.

The ACA Comments may be viewed on our website at:

http://www accreditedcertifiers.org/aca_policy_advocacy.htm

ACA Board Notes

June 2009

- The Board reviewed the progress of the various Working Groups.
- The agenda for the June 16 meeting in Chicago was reviewed.
- The Board approved revised Working Group

Guidelines.

- The WSDA Materials Review Program was discussed. It was noted that while they are no longer able to be a 3rd party reviewer, their review procedures are on their website.

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~ Thank You ~ to the following New & Renewing members

Agricultural Services Certified Organic
Baystate Organic Certifiers
BCS-Oeko Garantie GmbH
California Organic Farmers Assoc.
Center for Systems Integration
CERES - GmbH
Clemson University
Georgia Crops Improvement Assoc.
Global Culture
Hawaii Organic Farmers Assoc.
J.C. Parker
Midwest Organic Services Assoc.
Minnesota Crop Improvement Assoc.
MOFGA Certification Services
National Organic Coalition
Natures International Certification Services

New Hampshire Dept. of Agriculture
New Jersey Dept. of Agriculture
New Mexico Organic Commodity Comm.
Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance
NOFA-NY Certified Organic
OEFFA Organic Certification
OneCert, Inc.
Organic Agsystems Consulting
Organic Certifiers, Inc.
Organic National & International Certifiers
Oregon Tilth Certified Organic
Pennsylvania Certified Organic
Quality Certification Services
QMI Organic, Inc.
Rhode Island Dept. of Agriculture
Vermont Organic Farmers

ACA Board Notes (cont.)

June 2009 (cont.)

- NOSB Member Joe Smillie participated in the call, updating the Board on the work of Compliance, Accreditation and Certification Committee. This committee is working on the 100% Label Use recommendation. In addition all Board members have been involved in working on the Ag / Nonag & Synthetic / Nonsynthetic definitions work. Joe also noted that his term on the NOSB expires January, 2011.

July 2009

The Board reviewed the discussions that took place at our June 16 Meeting in Chicago to identify further action needed. There were 48 attendees.

August 2009

- The content of the letter to the Foreign Ag Service regarding the Korean accreditation

issues was reviewed and discussed. The letter will be sent within the next week.

- Progress of the Working Groups was discussed.
- The progress on planning of our annual training session was reviewed.

September 2009

- NOSB Member Joe Smillie provided an update of the work of NOSB. He noted there would not be a final recommendation for the 100% Label Use. Recommendations will include Personal Care and Retail Certification.
- A review of membership renewal activities notes that renewals are on track for this year.
- The Board decided that ACA would host a meeting in conjunction with the NOSB meeting in November.

Great Attendance at ACA Chicago Meeting

Following the NOP Training in Chicago, ACA held a general meeting on Tuesday morning June 16, 2009. Forty-eight attendees representing US private and state certification agencies, foreign certification agencies, NOP staff, IOIA, and various companies attended this gathering. Discussion focused on a review of the NOP training; three topics were identified as needing further discussion among certifiers and additional clarification from NOP. The topics are:

1. Labeling of alcoholic beverages;
2. Timing of inspection of new processing facilities and product certification;
3. Clarify the purpose of the NOP database.

There was also much discussion regarding the NOP Fertilizer notice. OMRI provided an update on their work, and various certifiers explained what their process would (or would not) be to address these high nitrogen liquid fertilizer issues. It was noted by several certifiers that the NOP audits were addressing the materials review process utilized by agencies.

Additional discussion focused on the issue of Private Labels and the information supplied by one certification agency to another. The Private Label Working Group is also addressing this issue and addressing communication tools.



**Join Us in
Savannah, Georgia
January 26 – 28, 2010**

**Registration &
Details Coming Soon**