



The ACA Guidewire

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Join Us in San Diego in 2014

What: ACA and National Organic Program Trainings for Certifying Agents

When: February 19, 2014 (NOP)
February 20 – 21, 2014 (ACA)

Where: Wyndham Hotel, San Diego, CA
<http://www.wyndhamsandiegobay.com/>

Located in Downtown San Diego, close to the Airport, on the bay, with access to many attractions including San Diego Zoo, local neighborhoods such as the Gaslamp Quarter, Old San Diego and many restaurants and stores.

Additional Details Coming Soon



Save the Date
and join your colleagues for a fun and educational event!

Accredited Certifiers Association, Inc. ■ PO Box 472 ■ Port Crane, NY 13833 USA
607.648.3259 ■ www.accreditedcertifiers.org
certifiers@accreditedcertifiers.org

ACA Board continues work on Strategic Plan

During the ACA Board of Directors Meeting in Orlando in January, 2013, the group initiated the development of a Strategic Plan for the work of the Association. At the June Board Meeting the group approved a revised Mission Statement and Vision Statement. The next tasks include the refinement of our stated Goals, and the development of Objectives and Tasks to attain the goals.

The Board will be setting aside 30 minutes of each Board Call to continue work on the Strategic Plan. Upon completion of the 1st Draft of the Strategic Plan members will be asked for comments and additional suggestions.

Revised ACA Mission Statement

The Accredited Certifiers Association is a member-based association of accredited organic certifiers and supporters who value certification. The Association collaborates, educates, and advocates sound and sensible implementation of the USDA Organic Standards and Regulations.

Revised Vision Statement

The Accredited Certifiers Association strives for consistency in organic certification to uphold organic integrity, maintain stakeholder trust, and grow the organic industry. The Association is committed to being a positive influence for the good of the organic community.

Other Recent Board Activities

Mac Stone, NOSB Certifier Representative has participated on calls providing updates on the NOSB activities and also encouraging the Board to move forward with work on the Sound & Sensible Project.

The Executive Committee and the full Board completed the Annual Evaluation of the ACA Coordinator. As a part of this process new tasks

were identified for the Coordinator to address during the coming months.

ACA and the International Organic Inspectors Association will begin collaboration on a webinar training on the topic of Unannounced Inspections. The timetable for completion of this project has not yet been established.

Join Us For

ACA Meeting

October 22, 2013

5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Galt House Hotel, Louisville, KY

In conjunction with the Fall NOSB Meeting

ACA Working Group Update

ACA Working Groups currently active include:

- Sound & Sensible Working Group
- Information on Certificates Working Group
- 2014 ACA Training Planning Working Group

The *Sound & Sensible Working Group* is focusing on the development of a concept paper regarding steps that can be taken to address OSP Updates, Materials, Noncompliances, and Inspection Issues. This paper will assist the NOSB in the development of their Discussion Document for the Fall NOSB Meeting.

The *Information on Certificates Working Group* has identified several issues with certificates that are problematic for the organic trade. These issues include the use of various dates, inconsistent

terminology, certificates and product lists being identified as confidential information, and use of brand names on certificates or product lists.

The following Working Groups will be established beginning later this month:

- *Seeds, Annual Seedlings & Planting Stock* to develop feedback to the NOP regarding the Guidance Document.
- *Poultry Working Group* to address resources, metrics used with regard to outdoor access / housing is next in line.

If you have an interest in participating in the Working Groups, please contact Patricia Kane, ACA Coordinator.



~ Thank You ~ to the following Renewing Members

Baystate Organic Certifiers
 Colorado Department of Agriculture
 Driscoll Strawberry Associates
 Midwest Organic Services
 MOFGA Certification Services
 National Organic Coalition
 New Jersey Department of Agriculture
 NOFA-NY Certified Organic LLC
 OEFFA Organic Certification
 OneCert
 Stellar Certification Services