National Organic Program (NOP) Certification 101

Farm Focus

Presented by Pat Moore

Inspector

Oregon Tilth, Inc.
Presentation Outline

• Overview of Oregon Tilth
• Overview of USDA NOP Certification
• NOP Farm Requirements
• Certification Process
• Choosing a Certifier
Oregon Tilth, Inc.

Organizational features

• Membership Organization
• *In Good Tilth* newsletter
• Research Programs
• Organic Education Center
• Oregon Tilth Certified Organic
Oregon Tilth, Inc.
Organizational features

Oregon Tilth Certified Organic (OTCO)

- Third-party Certification Program
- Farms, Handlers, and Processors
- USDA National Organic Program accredited
- Certified ISO Guide 65 compliant by USDA
Oregon Tilth

The Organic Label…

- represents over 20 years of public development and input
- is recognized by and codified in USDA regulations
- represents the largest growing sector in the food industry
- is the most recognized eco-label in the marketplace
Oregon Tilth Certified Farming Operations

OTCO Farming Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of Operators</th>
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Oregon Tilth
Certified Handling Operations

OTCO Handling Operations

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<th>Year</th>
<th># of Operators</th>
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<td>2005</td>
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<td>2006</td>
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Year
Oregon Tilth
Certified Farming Operations

Certified organic acreage in Oregon

- 21,627 acres in 2002
- 27,517 acres in 2004
- 47,600 acres in 2006
Estimated organic farm gate sales
Oregon 2005

Total Sales
$36,349,938

An additional $4,608 sales from Jefferson, Klamath and Wallowa Cos. was reported as a group by WSDA not included in regional totals but is included in state total.

OTCO & WSDA data
Organic Farms

Defining features

Crop Production
• Organic Management Plan and supporting records
• Land requirements (3 year transition, buffer zones)
• Maintain and enhance soil quality
• Protect water quality and biodiversity
• Seeds and planting stock
• Emphasis on preventative pest management
• Contamination avoidance
Organic Farms

Local Examples

Groundwork Organic Farm

- Junction City, OR
- 65 acres organic
- Diverse vegetables
- Direct and wholesale markets
Organic Farms

Defining features

Livestock Production

- Organic Management Plan & supporting records
- Origin of livestock
- Organic feed (no hormones, no slaughter by-products)
- Preventative health care practices (no antibiotics)
- Living conditions (accommodate health & natural behavior)
Organic Farms
Local Examples

Double J Jerseys
- Monmouth, OR
- 391 acres organic pasture
- 200 organic dairy cows
- Organic Valley cooperative
Organic Farms
Local Examples

Double J Jerseys
Overview of NOP Certification
Agricultural Marketing Service-USDA
CFR 205

• Production Requirements (Farm)
  – Land, Crop & Seed
  – Wild-crop Harvesting
  – Livestock/Dairy
  – Record Keeping
  – Contamination/Commingling Prevention
  – Labeling and Market Information
Overview of NOP Certification

What has to be certified?

- A labeling term that applies to an **agricultural product** produced in accordance with the Act and the regulations in this part

- Organic can refer only to agricultural goods or agricultural products meeting the composition requirements set forth in § 205.301

- Products sold, labeled, or represented as “100 percent organic”, “organic” or “made with” must be certified, except for exempt or excluded operations
Overview of NOP Certification

Organic Management Plan § 205.201

• Practices and procedures to be performed
• A list of each substance to be used as a production or handling input
• Monitoring practices and procedures
• Record keeping system concerning organic productions
• Management practices and physical barriers preventing commingling & contamination
• Additional information deemed necessary by the certifying agent
NOP Requirements
Record Keeping § 205.103

• Certified operations must maintain records concerning the production, harvesting, and handling of certified products

• Records MUST:
  – Fully disclose all activities in sufficient detail as to be readily understood and audited
  – Be maintained for not less than 5 years beyond their creation
  – Be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the ACT and regulations, ie NOP certificates, harvest records, sales records.
The Certification Process

Simple 5 Step Process

• Certification Application
• Initial Review of Organic Handling Plan (OHP)
• On-Site Inspection
• Certification Decision
• Continuation of Certification

Allow 8-12 weeks to complete process
Certification Considerations

Choosing an organic certification agency

- Costs and customer service
- Familiarity with and access to foreign markets
- History, reputation, leadership
- Scope of activities
Web Resources
Additional Information on Topics

CONTACT OREGON TILTH

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