

WSDA ORGANIC PROGRAM

Thank you for your interest in the Washington State Department of Agriculture Organic Program. Recent changes from the USDA National Organic Program have resulted in a significant change to the WSDA Material Registration Program and the Brand Name Material List.

On February 20, 2009, the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) issued a notification to all Accredited Certification Agencies informing them that the approval of all high nitrogen liquid fertilizers (fertilizers with a nitrogen analysis of greater than 3%) must be accompanied by documentation that demonstrates their compliance with NOP regulations, based upon a 3rd party inspection. As a state agency, WSDA must seek inspection authority from the Legislature prior to conducting inspections. In addition, the Department has determined it needs to seek specific authority from the legislature in order to operate its Material Registration Program. The Department will seek that authority in the 2010 legislative session which begins in January 2010. In the meantime, the Department cannot accept any new applications for 2010 and will refund any fees already submitted for 2010 registration of materials.

In order to minimize industry disruption, the Department will use its ability as an accredited certifying agent (ACA) under the National Organic Program (NOP) (7 CFR 205) for interim product verification to:

1. Conduct due diligence on your product(s) to determine compliance with the NOP National Organic Standards.
2. Issue letters to manufacturers of compliant products in order to document Department verification of compliance with the National Organic Standards. Letters verifying compliance with the National Standards will expire on July 1, 2010.
3. Publish a list of products for which WSDA has verified compliance with the National Organic Standards. The list of products for which WSDA has verified compliance with the National Organic Standards will expire on July 1, 2010.

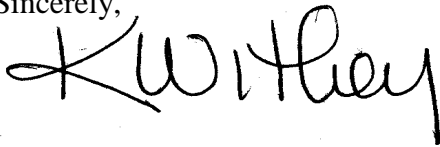
This interim measure is in addition to NOP-required due diligence for material review and is not mandated by NOP. The Department is providing these services on an interim basis as a stop-gap measure and does not have resources to conduct due diligence activities beyond those required by NOP after July 1, 2010. If the legislature grants specific authority to register materials for use in organic production and handling, the

Department will reinstitute its Material Registration Program after July 1, 2010. This Program will include the publication of the Brand Name Material List and registration fees.

If you wish to have the WSDA Organic Program review your material for compliance with the National Organic Standards, please complete the Request for Review of a New Product form and submit it to our office with the supporting documentation noted in the checklist on page 4 of the form.

If you have further questions, please contact me at (360) 902-1882, FAX (360) 902-2087 or email kwithey@agr.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kwithey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Katherine Withey
Organic Material Review Coordinator