

April 23, 2010

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ORGANIC
STANDARDS BOARD**

FROM: Miles McEvoy
Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program



SUBJECT: National Organic Standards Board Recommendations Concerning Expiration
Dates (November 2006) and Standardized Certificates (November 2007)

ISSUE:

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) has made two recommendations regarding organic certificates. The first recommendation, made November 2006, addresses expiration dates on certificates of organic operations. The second recommendation, made November 2007, addresses standardization of the content and terminology used on organic certificates.

SUMMARY:

The National Organic Program (NOP) supports both of these recommendations. The NOP plans to provide instructions and guidance to accredited certifying agents and certified operations concerning organic certificates. They will be included in the NOP Program Handbook, which is scheduled to be published through draft guidance in the summer of 2010. The NOP plans to start rulemaking during the 2011 fiscal year to implement the regulatory changes outlined in the NOSB recommendations.