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MEMORANDUM

TO: USDA Accredited Certifying Agents

FROM: Arthur Neal *ANW*
Associate Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program

SUBJECT: Procedures for Pesticide Residue Sampling

DATE: July 22, 2010

On June 23rd and 24th, 2010, Accredited Certifying Agents (ACA's) participated in an on-line webinar with the National Organic Program (NOP) to discuss draft procedures to facilitate a uniform and consistent pesticide residue sampling protocol. The NOP extends its appreciation to the ACA's that participated in these webinars and to all those that provided comment on the NOP's tentative strategy.

Due to the need for additional work, the NOP has decided not to implement the strategy discussed in the webinars last month. Instead, we will continue to work through the details of the procedures for collecting pesticide residue samples and the projected dates for which sampling activities will have to be completed.

The NOP will continue to keep all ACA's informed of the details concerning the pesticide residue sampling protocol, as information becomes available. Thank you, again, for your participation and for all your continued support.