



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 3507- South, Stop 0203
Washington, DC 20250-0203

September 27, 2007

Will Fantle
Director of Research
Cornucopia Institute
P.O. Box 126
Cornucopia, Wisconsin 54827

In re: Complaint concerning Violations of the National Organic Program's Regulatory Standards by the Aurora High Plains Organic Dairy

Dear Mr. Fantle:

I write in response to your letter of September 13, 2007, in regards to the above stated matter. After reviewing the information you provided, I have decided not to initiate an investigation.

On August 23, 2007, Aurora Organic Dairy (AOD) and the United States Department of Agriculture entered into a consent agreement in response to a Notice of Proposed Revocation. Part of that consent agreement included a one year review period during which time AMS intends to exercise increased scrutiny over AOD's operations.

The concerns that you raised in your letter of September 13, 2007, will be incorporated into the review plan that AMS will utilize during that one year period. AMS will ensure that the acreage dedicated to pasture for organic livestock at all AOD facilities is maintained in accordance with the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations.

In your letter you indicated that you had gathered "factual evidence" regarding the Aurora Organic Dairy's High Plains facility. I would invite you to provide that evidence to my office at your earliest convenience so that we may examine it before our review plan is finalized.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. The AMS Compliance Office welcomes any future complaints you may have regarding potential noncompliance with the Organic Foods Production Act and NOP regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David W. Trykowski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David W. Trykowski
Director
Compliance, Safety and Security Division
Agricultural Marketing Service



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Director of Research
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P.O. Box 126
Cornucopia, Wisconsin 54827

In re: Complaint Concerning Violations of the National Organic Program's Regulatory Standards by Quality Assurance International and the Colorado Department of Agriculture

Dear Mr. Fantle:

I write in response to your letter of September 13, 2007, in regards to the above stated matter. After reviewing the information you provided, I have determined that another investigation is not warranted.

Part of the AMS Compliance Office investigation of the Aurora Organic Dairy included a review of the actions by the accredited certifying agents. The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) agreed earlier this year to make several changes in its operation including attending increased NOP training and making more personnel available.

No evidence was found to suggest that Quality Assurance International (QAI) had violated the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations. However, the information you provided in your letter of September 13, 2007, will be shared with the Audit, Review and Compliance (ARC) Branch, so that it may be incorporated into the next accreditation review of QAI.

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. The AMS Compliance Office welcomes any future complaints you may have regarding potential noncompliance with the Organic Foods Production Act and NOP regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David W. Trykowski". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David W. Trykowski
Director
Compliance, Safety and Security Division
Agricultural Marketing Service



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STOP 0201 – Room 3071-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0201

John Stulp
Commissioner
Colorado Department of Agriculture
700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-8000

September 27, 2007

Dear Commissioner Stulp:

Enclosed you will find a response from our Office of Compliance and Analysis (C&A), responding to the incoming complaint filed about the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) related to the Aurora Organic Dairy certification. As you will note, the response from C&A states that this matter is closed because of our previous actions with CDA and the agreement. No further investigation into the matter is warranted.

Furthermore, the National Organic Program (NOP) continues to support CDA as an accredited certifying agent in good standing with the Program. We have every reason to believe that CDA will continue to perform its responsibilities under the NOP regulations and will consult with the NOP when questions arise, as certifying agents often do.

We trust this closes the matter and we look forward to a continued productive relationship with you and your staff.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara C. Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Barbara C. Robinson
Deputy Administrator

Enclosure