

JUN 10 2011

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY VARIANCE APPROVAL

Joanie Quinn
Education Coordinator
New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission
4001 Indian School NE, Suite 310
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Dear Ms. Quinn:

On May 31, 2011, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) received the request for a temporary variance from the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations §§205.237(c)(1,2) and 205.239(a)(2), submitted by the New Mexico Organic Commodity Commission on behalf of ruminant livestock producers located in several drought stricken New Mexico counties. The basis for establishing this variance for these New Mexico counties is due to documented severe drought conditions. The Department has reviewed the recommendation for a temporary variance for organic ruminant livestock producers according to NOP regulation requirements in §205.290. Based upon the submitted documentation, the request for temporary variance from §§205.237(c)(1,2) and 205.239(a)(2) is granted, with restrictions, and is in effect for 90 days, beginning on June 15, 2011.

The temporary variance from §§205.237(c)(1,2) and 205.239(a)(2) is restricted to:

- Organic ruminant livestock producers in the following New Mexico counties: Catron; Cibola; Curry; Grant; Mora; Roosevelt; San Miguel; and Socorro.
- Non-irrigated pasture only; producers having access to irrigated pasture are not included in the variance.

If you have any questions regarding this decision, please contact Robert Pooler, Regional Accreditation Manager, at (202) 720-3252 or bob.pooler@ams.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

for 
Rayne Pegg
Administrator