

Feed Suppliers and Producers List Memo

March 20, 2003

TO: USDA –Accredited Certifying Agents

FROM: Barbara C. Robinson
Deputy Administrator
Transportation & Marketing Programs

SUBJECT: Feed Suppliers and Producers List

As many of you are aware, Congress recently passed the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2003 – the bill that provides the spending authority for USDA for fiscal year 2003, and in that bill was a rider. The rider states that USDA is prohibited from spending any resources to enforce the 100% organic feed grain requirement for livestock and poultry, unless two conditions are met. First, a study mandated by the recent Farm Bill must show that there are sufficient feed grain supplies to meet the needs of livestock and poultry producers who wish to produce organic meats. Second, the price of organic feed grains must not be more than double the price of conventionally-produced feed grains.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is responsible for conducting the study, as well as reporting on organic and conventional feed grain prices. (The National Organic Program is located in Transportation & Marketing Programs within AMS.)

As part of the NOP regulations, certifying agents are required to submit information to AMS each January 2nd, on the operations they have certified in the previous year. We are already receiving information from certifying agents to reflect work done in 2002. However, we are asking if you would be willing to submit the names of feed suppliers and feed grain producers you have certified, along with their addresses and phone numbers and any other contact information that you wish to give us (e-mail addresses, web sites, etc.). This is strictly voluntary on your part; it is not required either as part of the study AMS is conducting, or as part of the NOP regulations. It would, however, help us in meeting the goals of this study. In addition, we would create a producer and supplier list and post the list on the NOP web site.

If you are willing to submit this information, please email your information to demaris.wilson@usda.gov. You may also fax the information, if you do not have access to email, to Demaris Wilson at 202-205-7808.

Thank you very much. If you have comments or suggestions, we welcome those by email or fax as well.

cc: Organic Trade Association
National Organic Standards Board