



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 2646-S, Ag Stop 0268
Washington, D.C. 20250-0268

NOTICE OF SURRENDER OF ACCREDITATION

DEC -1 2011

Dr. Mike Strain, DVM
Commissioner of Agriculture
Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry
5825 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Dear Commissioner Strain:

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP) received a letter of accreditation surrender from the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) with an effective date of January 1, 2012.

Pursuant to the surrender of accreditation, we request that you complete the following within 30 days of receipt of this letter and submit verification to the NOP:

1. Notify all client operations of the following:
 - a. LDAF is no longer a NOP accredited certifying agent as of January 1, 2012.
 - b. All operations must within 60 days, after receipt of LDAF's notice to certified operations, either surrender their certificate or apply with another accredited certifying agent.

Reference: NOP 2604 (Program Handbook).

2. Please send a draft "Notice to Operations" inclusive of the elements listed above for review by the NOP.
3. Please update the enclosed LDAF client list of operations to indicate the current status of each client. You may indicate the status as follows: Surrendered certificate (date), Transferred to *Certifier X* (Date), Current client – Notification issued, Other (Explain.) If there are clients not on the enclosed list, please add them and indicate their status.
4. Contact NOP to discuss the disposition of any remaining client records and to receive further instructions.
5. Per our phone conversation with Harry Schexnayder, Organic Program Coordinator, LDAF agrees to continue to manage existing certified operations until the date of surrender on January 1, 2012, and will remain responsive to future requests concerning the disposition of LDAF certified operations.
6. Furthermore, LDAF will continue to work to correct the non-compliances listed in the corrective action report NP109MMA, and will need to address all remaining non-compliances if applying for NOP Accreditation in the future.

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Your contact person at the NOP is Betsy Rakola, Accreditation Manager. She can be reached at betsy.rakola@ams.usda.gov or (202) 720-0081.

Sincerely,

Miles McEvoy For MVM

Miles McEvoy
Deputy Administrator
National Organic Program

Enclosures: Audit Report NP109MMA
LDAF List of Certified Operations

