

### **United States Department of Agriculture**

Agricultural Marketing Service

National Organic Program Update: Strengthening Organic Enforcement

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### **Agricultural Marketing Service**



The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) administers programs that create domestic and international marketing opportunities for U.S. producers of food, fiber, and specialty crops. AMS also provides the agriculture industry with valuable services to ensure the quality and availability of wholesome food for consumers across the country.







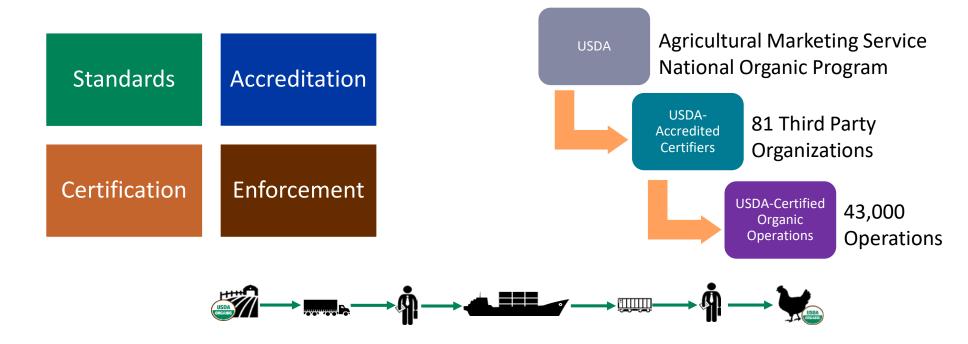




## What is the USDA Organic Program Mission?



- Established by Congress in 2001, the National Organic Program (NOP) develops and enforces uniform national standards for organically-produced agricultural products sold in the United States.
- Operating as a public-private partnership, NOP accredits private companies and helps train their inspectors to certify that farms and businesses meet the national organic standards.



## Strengthening Organic Enforcement: New Rule



As the organic sector grows - so does supply chain complexity... Jome About - Our Team Donate Publications - Contact Free Subscription Jobs The U.S. organic market in 2018 broke Fraud: Farmers Caught Selling through the \$50 billion mark for the first Conventional Crops As Organic time, with sales hitting a record \$52.5 billion, up 6.3 percent from the previous year = EXPLORE FOOD&WINE wanted articles USDA officials said they were guarding against organic food fraud. Congress decided they need help. Organic Food Fraud Is a Big Problem-Here's What the WEST STATE TO THE PUBLIC PADIO PUBLIC RADIO PADOR Government Plans to Do About In Organic Labels Consumers Trust, But Fraud Threatens The Industry Is your organic produce really organic? The USDA has a plan to make sure it is. By Mike Pomranz May 30, 2018 A Della Inc. USDA Agricultural Marketing Service | National Organic Program

## 1. More certified organic businesses



# Additional businesses will need to get organic certification. This includes businesses that do any of the following:

- Buy or sell organic products
- Negotiate sales between buyers and sellers
- Import or export organic products
- Split, combine or repackage loads

Exceptions that would not require certification: Retail, transport and storage



## 2. Importing requirements



# An electronic Import Certificate will be required for each organic shipment.

- Integrated into CBP's ACE system
- Filed as part of the entry summary
- Maximizes the use of existing import systems & processes

Modernizes trade to ensure full traceability and tracking of imports



## Import Certificates: Technology Steps



## **Early Pilot Testing: 2020**

Data Entry/Approvals

(Use Existing Import Filing Processes)

**Import Certificate** 

CBP Automated
Commercial
Environment (ACE)



**USDA Data Access** 

Decisions and Action



## 3. Labeling on nonretail containers



# Shipping and storage containers will need to:

- Identify product as "organic"
- Name the certifier of the product
- Production lot number (currently required)

#### Why?

- Accurate identification of organic products
- Prevents mishandling
- Reduces risk of fraud

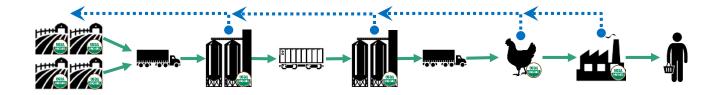


## In summary...



## Certification, import certificates, and nonretail labeling:

- Provide traceability throughout the supply chain
- Close potential vulnerabilities
- Enable faster fraud detection
- Protect the value of organic products
- Protect the integrity of the USDA Organic Seal



## **Next Steps**



- Proposed Rule Publication Expected Early 2020
- Comment Period 60 days
- Any business affected by the Proposed Rule is encouraged to submit comment during the comment period
- Best practices for comments:
  - Describe concern and impact
  - —Offer alternative solutions
- All comments will be public and viewable at www.regulations.gov