

January 2006

Dear Organic Dairy Producer:

Happy New Year! We wish you and your family a healthy and prosperous 2006!

It is time to begin the renewal process for your NOFA NY Certified Organic, LLC certification. We look forward to working with you in the coming year. A few reminders:

Certification Fee Due Dates

~ Something new for 2006! We are now offering an “Early Bird” discount of \$50.00 off the 2006 certification fee for **complete applications received** in the certification office with the **full certification fee submitted on or before** February 10, 2006. There will be a late fee of \$125.00 assessed to all applications postmarked after the deadline of 2/28/06.

~ If you choose not to take advantage of the Early Bird discount, one half of your 2006 certification fee is due with the application and the second half of the fee is due by August 1, 2006. This will allow us to automatically update NY Ag & Markets for the reimbursement program. A \$20.00 billing fee will be added to past-due balances for **each late notice sent**. If an outstanding balance becomes more than 60 days past due, a proposed suspension letter will be issued.

~ Applied Amendments/Spray Record Form, Dairy/Livestock Medication Record, Purchased Feed Log, and Harvest Records from the past year must be submitted with your application. New copies are enclosed for the coming year.

Organic Seed Requirement

~ The organic seed requirement will be enforced more strictly in 2006. Please make every effort to source organic seeds for your 2006 crops. There is a good supply available this year—even more than 2005. **At least** three viable sources of organic seeds must be contacted before using untreated seed. Companies that do not sell organic seeds are not considered to be a valid contact. You must **clearly** document your seed search and have it available for the Inspector to review during your inspection. Keep all tags, receipts, etc. **If a genuine effort is not made to source and use organic seeds, it will be considered a Noncompliance.**

~ If organic producers don't start making a genuine effort to source organic seeds and if certification agencies don't enforce the requirement, there is no incentive for the seed companies (who are also working with organic farmers!) to develop organic seeds. Certified organic seeds are the purest seeds on the market and the least likely to contain traces of GMOs.

~ Please remember that the use of any treated seeds will disqualify a field from certification for three years. If organic seeds are not available in the form, quality or quantity that you need, and you use untreated seeds, we need proof that they were untreated and a Non-GMO statement for each variety.

To assist you with the completion of the Renewal Application, copies of the following forms (showing your 2005 information) are included for updating:

~ **Field Information for 2006.** Please indicate 2006 crops for all fields. **If you are adding new fields or pastures in 2006, a map of the new field/pasture, New Field History form and New Field Affidavit are required. Crops from new fields may not be fed or sold as organic until certification is completed.**

~ **Adjoining Land Use Form.** If there are no changes to your buffer zone chart, please indicate on the chart.

~ **Equipment List.** Note any new equipment added or equipment disposed of on this form.

~ **Certified Animal List.** Please review and update the enclosed list. Indicate animals sold, born and purchased. Purchased animals must be certified organic. Be sure to obtain certification documentation for all purchased animals. Birthdates should include at least the month and year. **Information for all new animals, whether farm raised or purchased must be supplied.**

~ **Health, Nutrition and Cleaning Products List.** Please review and update the enclosed list by checking the box for the appropriate category of use. Add any new products being used. If it is not on the National List or OMRI List, it must be approved prior to use. **Before using any new products, please call the office to see if product has been reviewed.** Office staff will be happy to assist you with this confusing issue. **Please note: Materials/substances recommended by the NOSB are not approved until the NOP adds them to the National List.** This includes, but is not limited to, Propylene Glycol, Flunixin (Banamine), Calcium Propionate, Epinephrine/adrenaline.

The above forms, as well as the balance of your records will be reviewed at the time of inspection.

Milk Quality Reports do not need to be submitted with your application this year. They will be reviewed by the inspector during the inspection visit. Please have them available for the inspector.

We strongly encourage you to update your notification letters with all applicable agencies. This helps protect you in case of spraying near your property.

Please be sure to make a copy of all 2006 forms for your records before sending them to the office. Please complete your application in pen and return it to the office postmarked by February 28, 2006.

If you are not renewing your certification, please notify the office in writing and surrender your certification certificate. This will allow you to leave our organization in good standing and be eligible to apply for certification again at any time. If this step is not followed, we are required to issue a Notice of Noncompliance and then a Notice of Proposed Suspension.

If you have questions on the recertification process or forms, please call the office. Thank you for your participation in the certification program. We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year.

With Kind Regards,

Lisa Engelbert
Co-Administrator

Enclosures