Moving Organic Forward

A Quest for Integrity
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205.2 Terms defined

**Organic production**

A production system that is managed to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance,
Hot Issues
Hot Issues - Crops

• Organic Seed Requirements
• Input Substitution without Soil Building Crop Rotations
• Biodiversity Requirements
• Genetic Trespass - “Presence” of GMOs not Prohibited; No Regulatory Limits; Contamination of Seed Supplies
Hot Issues - Livestock

• New Dairy Conversion Standard
• Replacement Dairy Animals
• Pasture for Ruminants - ANPR
• Access to Outdoors for All Species - Bird flu fears
Hot Issues - Handling

- Synthetic “Ingredients” in Processed Organic Foods - Impact of Harvey Suit and Congressional Amendment
- Food Contact Substances and Allowance of Materials not Approved by NOSB
- “Emergency Allowances” by USDA for use of Non-organic Ingredients
Hot Issues - Organic Integrity

• NOSB Appointment Process
• USDA Accountability
• Accreditation - Lack of Peer Review; Still No NOP Quality Manual
• International Recognitions - Imports of Dubious Distinction
Vision for Organic Growth

2004 Appropriations
USDA budget = $82 billion
1% = $820 million  2% = $1.64 billion

2004 USDA Organic budget = $11.9 million (.01%) Covers NOP; Organic Certification Cost Share; Organic Research; NASS
Organic Ag in the Farm Bill

- Extend Organic Certification Cost Share
- Organic Transition Incentives for Crop and Livestock Producers
- Crop Insurance for Organic Producers
- Expand Support for Organic Research
- Coordinate USDA Organic Functions
- Prohibit GMOs
- Mandate Pasture for Ruminants
Organic and...

- Local or Regional
- Fair Trade (domestic and foreign)
- Family Farmed
- Female Farmed
- Grassfed
- Certified Humane
- Wild Harvested
Going Beyond

• National Organic Farmers Union?
• Property Tax Incentives for Organic Management
• CSAs - Customer Satisfied Agriculture
• Farmers Markets/Buy Local/Chefs
• Grower Groups/Cooperatives
• Slow Food/Real Food
• Edible Schoolyards - Farms to Schools
• Healthy Foods for Hospitals and Hospices
• Build Alliances - Consumers, Enviros, Health
Thank You!