

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)
National Organic Program (NOP)

**An Organic Update for the
Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee**

Jennifer Tucker, NOP Deputy Administrator
April 19, 2023

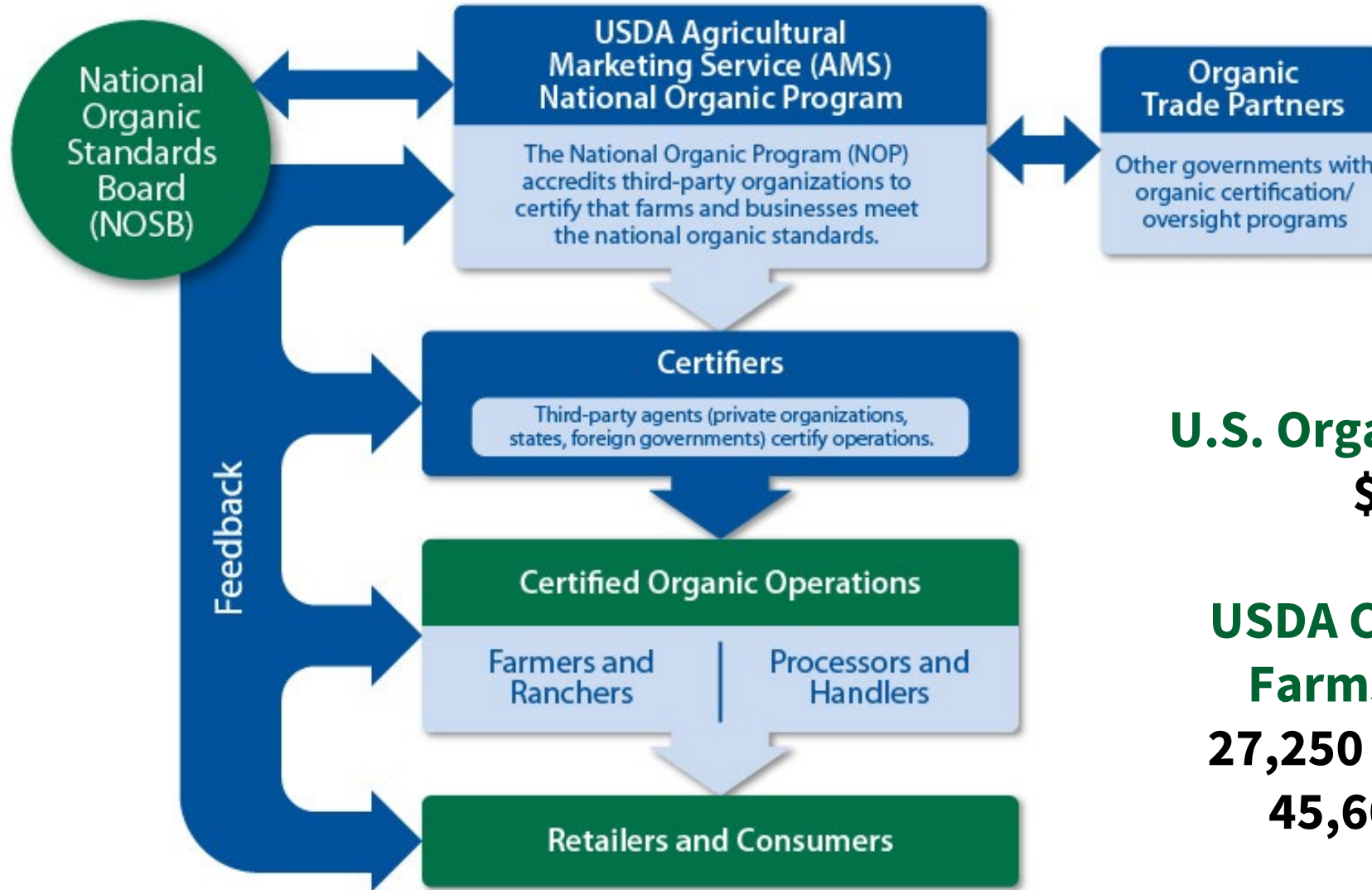




USDA Oversees the Organic Seal

- Organic production emphasizes natural processes and ingredients
- No genetic engineering allowed
- Supports soil and water quality and biodiversity
- Emphasizes physical, mechanical, and biological farming methods
- Limited number of approved pesticides vetted through Federal Advisory Board
- Rigorous certification process with residue testing and annual inspections
- Scopes of Certification: Crops, Livestock, Processed Products (Handling), Wild Crops

The Organic Public-Private Partnership



**U.S. Organic Sales in 2021:
\$63-billion**

**USDA Certified Organic
Farms and Business
27,250 In United States
45,600 Worldwide**

National Organic Program Goal Areas for 2023



Grow and develop the organic sector through transition initiatives and technical assistance



Develop and implement organic standards through open, transparent, collaborative processes



Protect organic integrity through strong oversight systems



Protect organic integrity through robust enforcement

Organic Transition Initiative



Transition to Organic Partnership Program (\$100 M)

- Farmer-to-Farmer Mentoring
- Technical Assistance
- Community Development
- Workforce Development
- Data and Reporting

Direct Support: Conservation and Crop Insurance (\$100 M)

- Conservation Support for Transitioning Farmers (NRCS)
- Crop Insurance Assistance for Transitional Organic Growers (RMA)

Pinpointed Organic Market Development (Up to \$100 M)

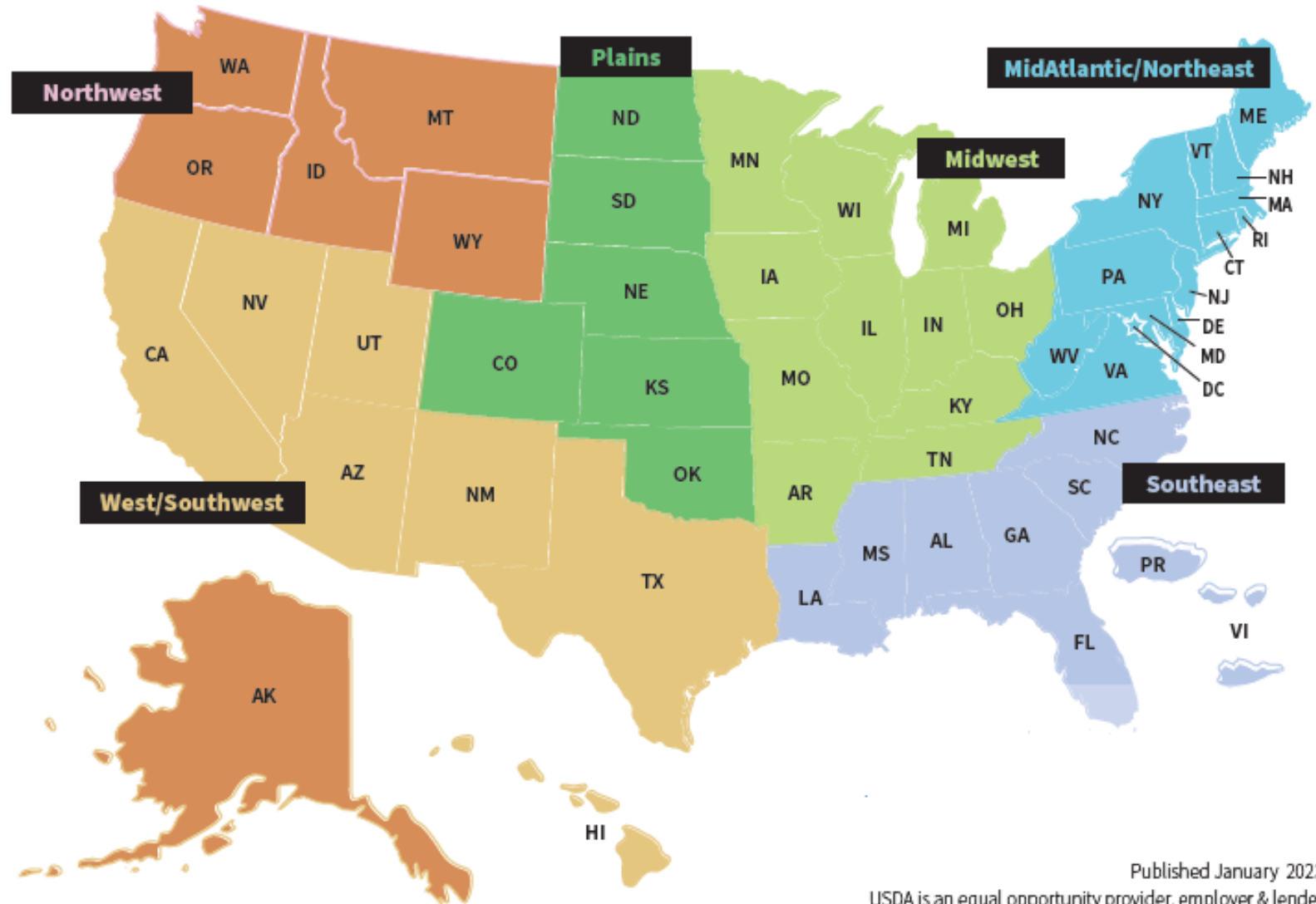
- Support Innovation by building organic supply chains in targeted markets
- Request for Applications will open this Spring – will be a competitive grant program.

Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP)



Transition to Organic Partnership Program (\$100 M)

- Farmer-to-Farmer Mentoring
- Technical Assistance
- Community Development
- Workforce Development
- Data and Reporting



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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer & lender

We Recently Updated the Organic Rules...

Strengthening Organic Enforcement Final Rule..... Protect organic integrity and bolster confidence in the organic seal



Increase the number of certified entities to fill gaps



Strengthen recordkeeping and supply chain traceability



Require use of electronic import certificates



Strengthen oversight of accredited certifiers



Applicability and Exemptions from Certification

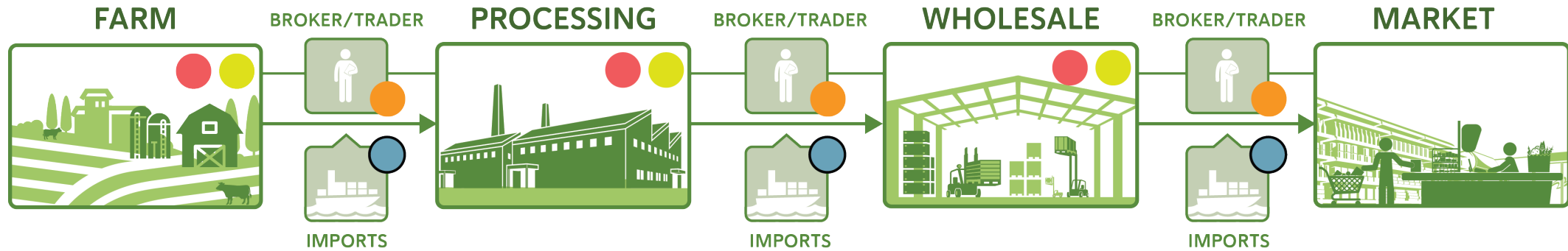


The new rule **expands** the types of operations that must be certified, with only limited exemptions.

- Any operation that **produces or handles** organic products must be certified, unless they are exempt.
- **Handle** includes trade, export, import, or facilitate the sale or trade of an organic product.
- Some **supply chain intermediaries** that currently do not require certification, such as traders, commodity brokers, or importers, **must become certified**.

Our Request: Help us get the word out about certification!

Imports to the U.S.: Electronic Import Certificates



Certifiers and operations must use the **electronic NOP Import Certificate** for organic products imported to the U.S.

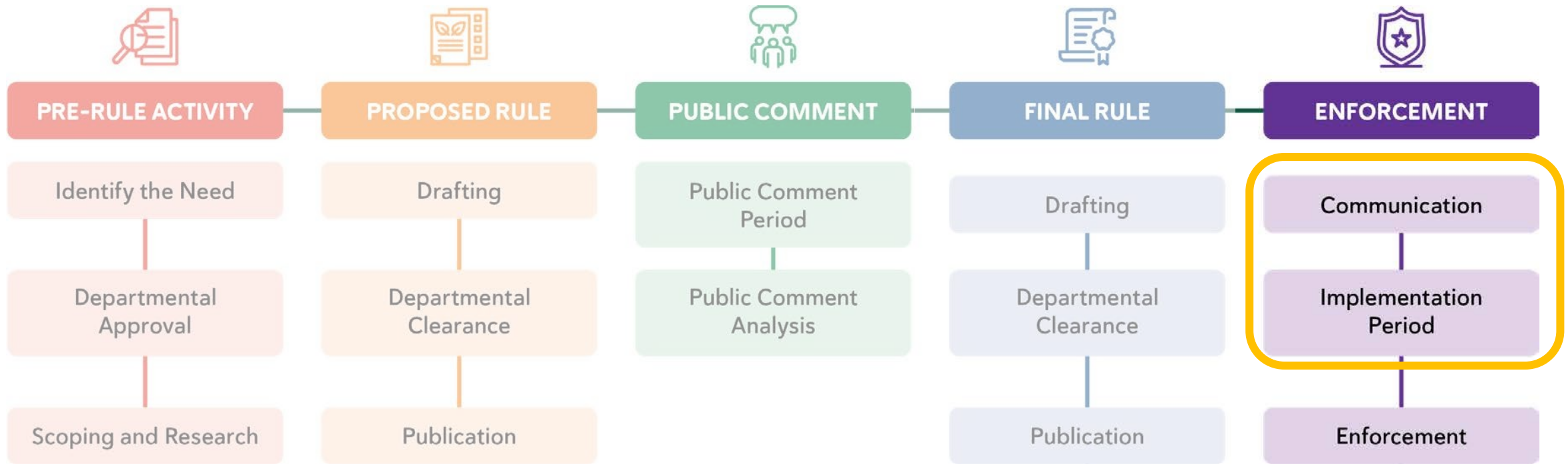


- The Import Certificate **provides traceability** to the port of entry and **ensures an auditable record trail.**
- Import certificates will be generated in NOP's **Organic Integrity Database** and entered into **CBP import system.**

Implementation



All businesses must comply with the final rule 14 months after publication: **March 19, 2024.**



If a Business Needs to Be Certified.....



Start Soon to Complete Certification by March 19, 2024!

Adopt organic practices, select certifier, apply

Application Review

On-Site Inspection

Full Review for Compliance

Certification Approval or Denial

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/becoming-certified>

Compliance and Enforcement is Ongoing



Training and Outreach to Build Capabilities

Surveillance (Operations, Certifiers, Sectors, Countries)

Complaint Investigations & Resulting Actions

Certifier Directives, Testing and Related Actions

Loss of Certification (Suspension, Revocation) under NOP

Legal Penalties Covered by Trademark Protections

Significant Fees and Fines (Civil Penalties)

Prison Time

USDA: NOP & Office of Inspector General + Other Agencies

Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

Department of Justice (DOJ)

Organic Integrity From Farm to Table



Consumers Trust the Organic Label

