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Deputy Administrator
April 2019



Welcome to Seattle!



Elliott Bay Brewhouse & Pub - Burien	[WSDA] Washington State Department of Agriculture		Certified	Seattle	Washington	United States of America	HANDLING: Alcohol: Beer (Alcohol: Beer (Demolition Ale... More
Elliott Bay Public House & Brewery- Lake City Way	[WSDA] Washington State Department of Agriculture		Certified	Seattle	Washington	United States of America	HANDLING: Alcohol: Beer (Alcohol: Beer (Demolition Ale... More
Ener-G Foods Inc	[QAI] Quality Assurance International		Certified	Seattle	Washington	United States of America	HANDLING: Other: Buckwheat Molasses Bread... More
Excel Trade LLC	[OTCO] Oregon Tilth Certified Organic		Certified	Seattle	Washington	United States of America	HANDLING: Other: Lollipops (Assorted Lollipops: Blueberry Lemon... More
Firefly Kitchens, LLC	[WSDA] Washington State Department of Agriculture		Certified	Seattle	Washington	United States of America	HANDLING: Fruits/Vegetables: Ready to Eat Foods (Fruit and Vegetable Products: Pickled... More
Fran's Chocolates, Ltd	[OTCO] Oregon Tilth Certified Organic		Certified	Seattle	Washington	United States of America	HANDLING: Other: Candy (Peanut Butter Cup)... More

**75 Certified Organic Farms & Businesses in Seattle
1,417 in Washington State**

NOP 2018 Count of Certified Operations



43,004
Total

- 4.4% Increase from 2017

27,494
United States

- >1,000 Increase

15,510
International

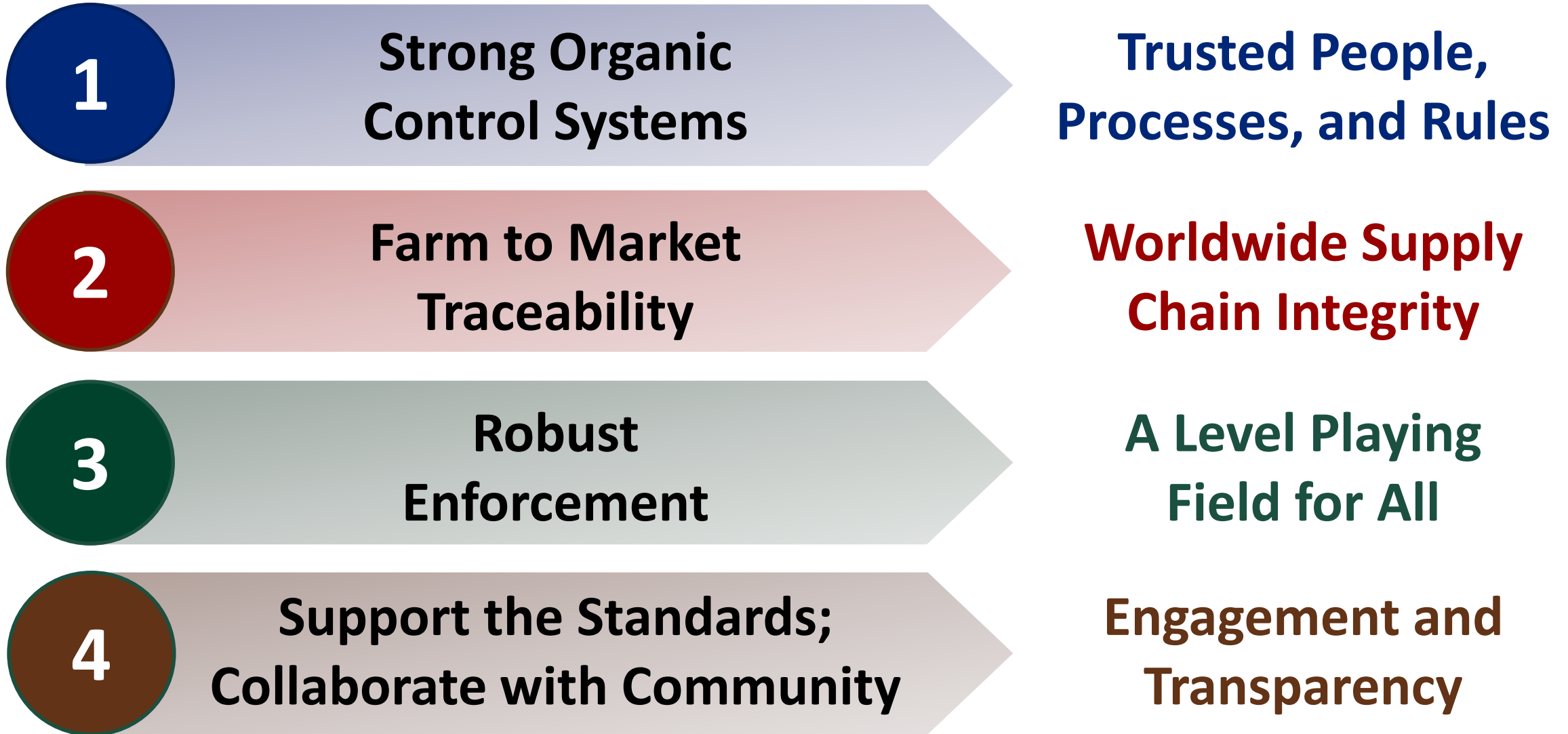
- 713 Increase



We Regulate Based on the Rules and Facts

- Organic Food Production Act
- USDA Organic Regulations
- Facts and Evidence

NOP Priorities



- Program Updates
- Farm Bill
- Call for Board Nominations
- Organic Imports - Risk-Based Oversight
- Dairy Compliance Project
- Strengthening Organic Enforcement - Proposed Rule
- Organic Integrity Learning Center – Launch!
- INTEGRITY Data Quality Awards!

Program Updates: Origin of Livestock



Program Updates: National List

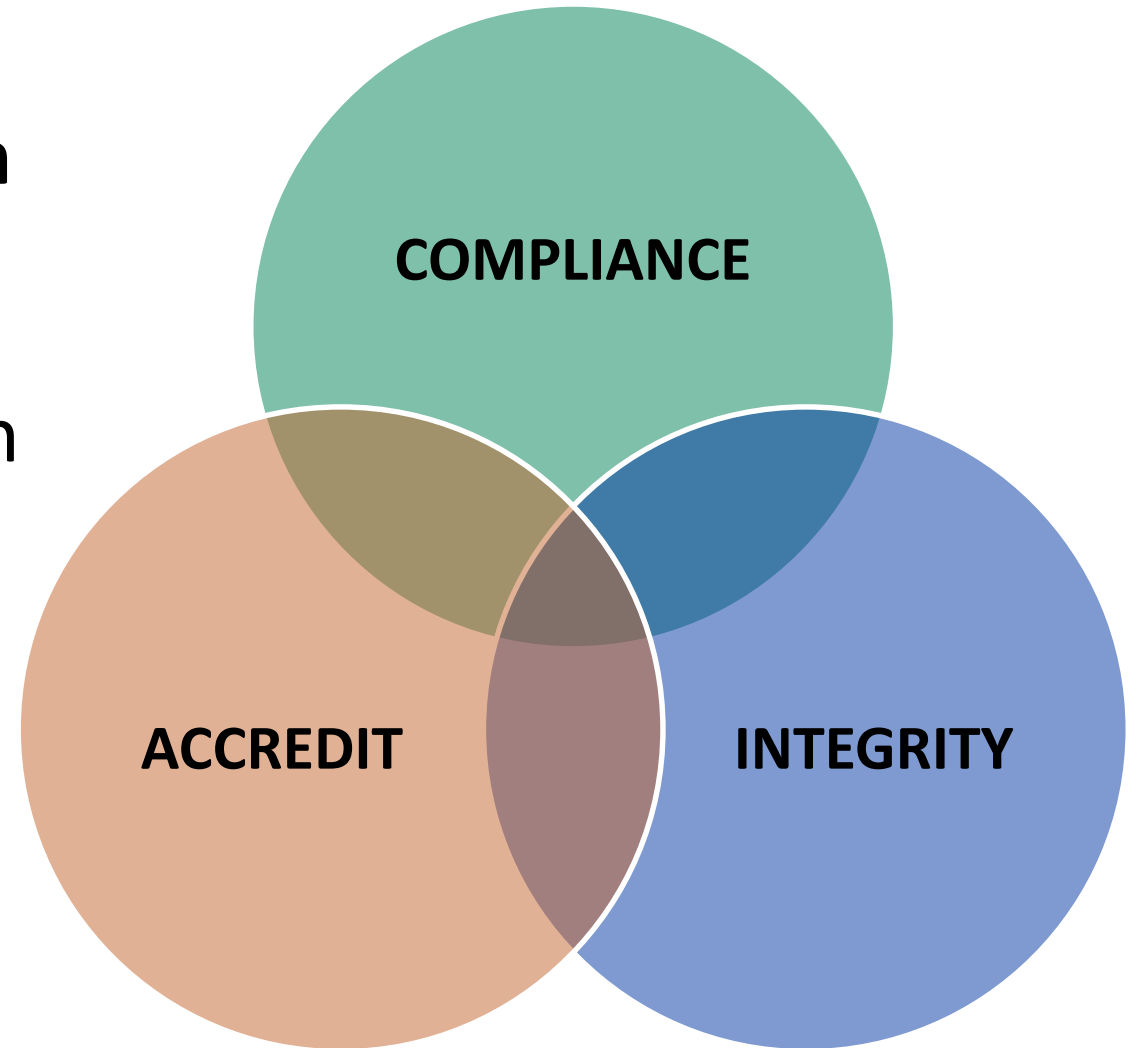
- **Final Rule - Published Dec 27, 2018**
35 changes, MOST changes effective Jan 28, 2019
- **Final Rule – In Clearance**
Fall 2017 NOSB recommendations
Sulfur, potassium acid tartrate
- **Proposed Rule – Comments Closed April 16**
Spring 2018 NOSB recommendations
Sulfur, polyoxin D zinc salt, magnesium chloride

In Development

- **2019 Sunset Material Renewals, Federal Register Notice**
Expected publication Summer 2019
- **2019 Sunset Material Removals**
Recommendations under review
- **Proposed Rule**
Fall 2018 NOSB recommendations
Natamycin, tamarind seed gum
Expected publication Fall 2019

New Database Launched in March

- Powerful Analytical Tools
- Better Customer Communication
- More Tracking for Investigative Reports, Corrective Actions from Violators



Program Updates: Staffing



- **New NOP Leadership and Staff**

- Associate Deputy Administrator
- Trade Systems Director
- Accreditation Manager
- Quality Manager



- **Upcoming Announcements: USAJobs.gov**

- Livestock Compliance Specialists (Washington DC)
- Remote Accreditation Auditors (Anywhere)



Happy Administrative Professional's Day!

Joan Avila

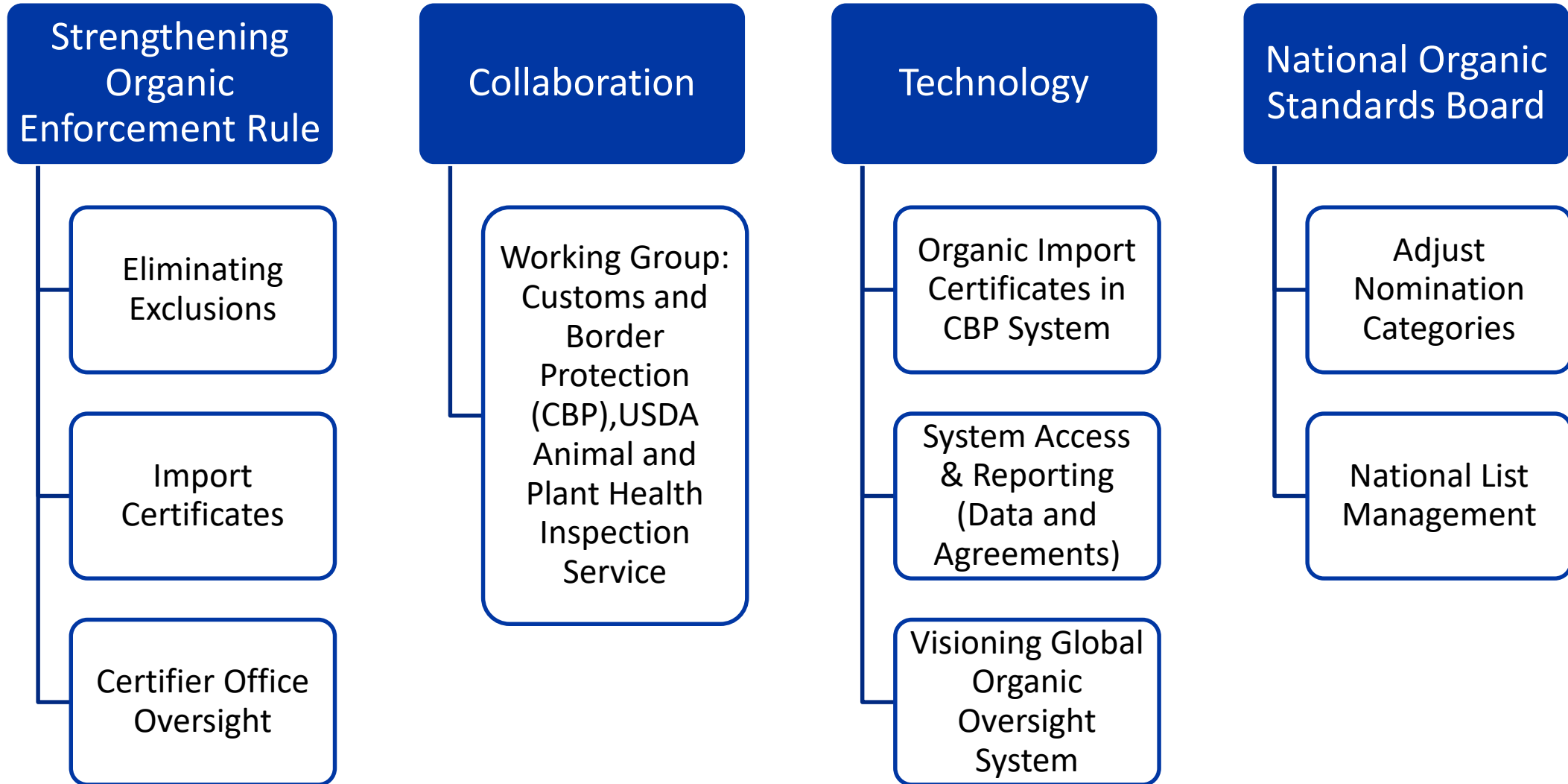
National Organic Program



Jeanne Gonzales

Georgia Crop Improvement
Association

Farm Bill: Crossing All NOP Priority Areas

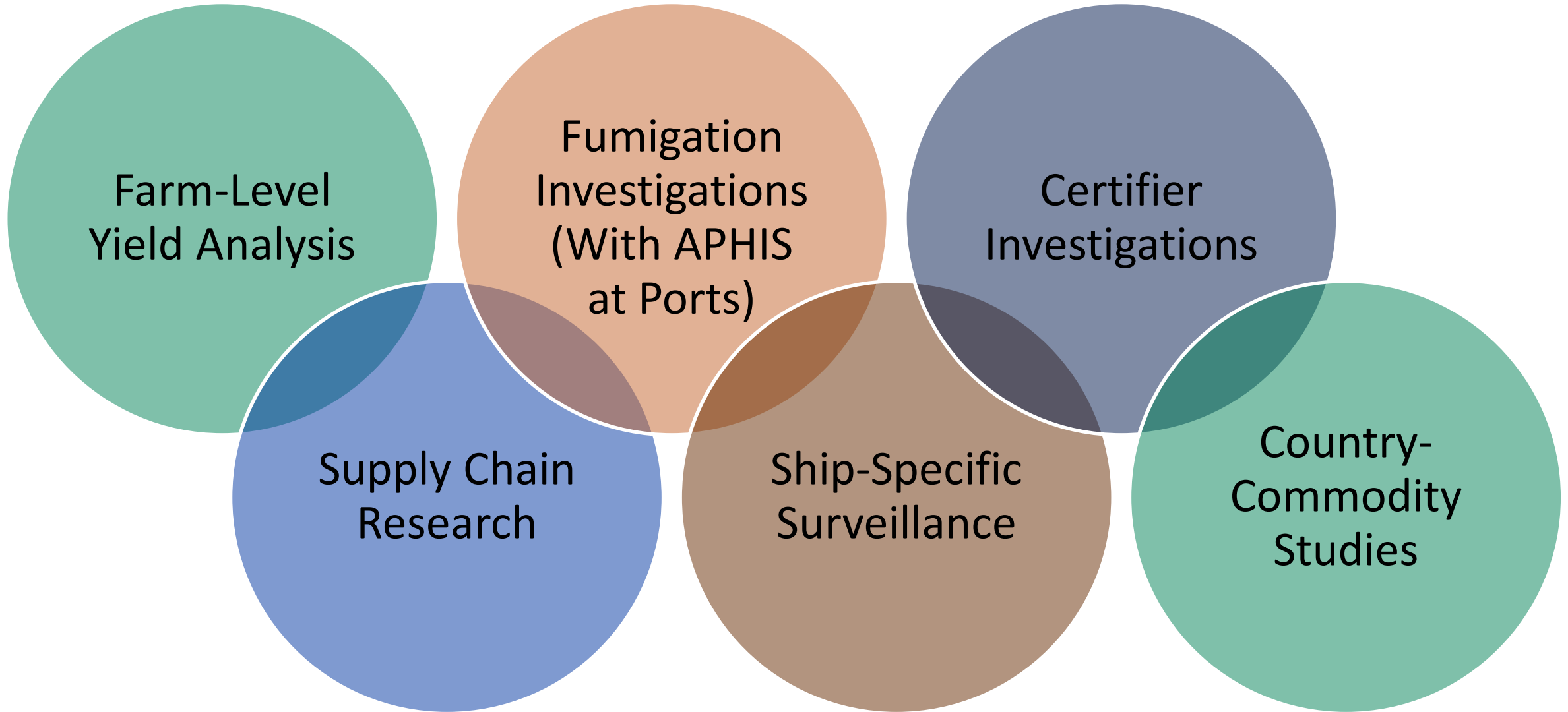


Nominations due **May 20, 2019**

Announced in Federal Register/Insider, March 19

- Five vacancies
 - 1: Expertise in environmental protection & resource conservation
 - 1: Owns/operates or employee of an organic farming operation
 - 2: Owns/operate or employee of an organic handling operation
 - 1: Owns/operates or employee of a retail establishment with significant trade in organic products
- Flyer Out Front! AND, see NOSB website – Nomination Process

Organic Imports Oversight: Risk-Based Oversight



Organic Imports Oversight: Successes



- As a result of new directives on unannounced inspections & residue/GMO testing
 - 180 Operations (60%) in the Black Sea Region have lost certification
 - Continued scrutiny of the remaining certified operations
- Impact: Reduced Organic Grain and Oilseed Imports from Black Sea/Turkey
 - In 2016, represented 49% (dollar value of these imports)
 - In 2018, represented 21%
- Fumigation: Increased Importer Awareness & Partnership with APHIS
 - Not sold as organic (re-labeled)
- Noncompliances, Proposed Suspensions for Certifiers, Farms

Dairy Compliance Project: Year 1 Report-Out



Process

Players:

- AMS Auditors
- NOP Compliance Specialists
- Office of Inspector General
- USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Services
- Certifiers
- **Unannounced Visits**
 - Nationwide
 - Single and multi-day
- **2019** visits start this week!

Policy Outcomes

Training Needs:

- Defining the regional grazing season
- Reviewing justifications for breaks in the grazing season
- Crop rotations and natural resource management
- Access to shade, water source

Compliance Outcomes

All Operations:

- Demonstrated at least 120 days of grazing
- All cows got 30% DMI from pasture in season
- Some operations had other correctable issues
- Where supported by the evidence, investigations are ongoing (ops/certifier)
- Civil penalty levied against a livestock operation

Strengthening Organic Enforcement



- Applicability & Exemptions from Certification (Excluded Handlers)
- Imports to U.S. (Import Certificates)
- Labeling of Nonretail Containers
- On-Site Inspections (Unannounced)
- Certificates of Organic Operations
- Continuation of Certification (Certificate Expirations)
- Paperwork Submissions to the Administrator
- Personnel Training and Qualifications
- Oversight of Certification Activities (Certifier Office Oversight)
- Accepting Foreign Conformity Assessment Systems (International Oversight)
- Compliance—General
- Noncompliance Procedure for Certified Operations
- Mediation
- Adverse Actions – General, Appeals
- Producer Group Operations
- Calculating the Percentage of Organically Produced Ingredients
- Supply Chain Traceability and Organic Fraud Prevention

Proposed Rule and Public Comments: Fall 2019

Now Available



Qualified and
Trained Organic
Professionals

Strong
Control
Systems

Fair,
Consistent
Certification

Organic
Integrity

Organic Integrity Learning Center

Free online training that supports the professional development & continuing education of professionals working to protect organic integrity



Training Center is Live!

NOP Assigns Accounts Audience: Organic certifiers, inspectors & reviewers, compliance and enforcement professionals



Certifiers

Primary and Secondary Contacts Enrolled by NOP
Certifiers responsible for outreach to staff



Public Sign-Up Process

Individual or Group Requests to USDA-NOP@apvit.com;
- User Name, First Name, Last Name, Organization, Email

Organic Integrity Learning Center – Next Steps

Course List

Courses where you are: Learner

NOP-010: Introduction to the USDA Organic System
Instructor: Brian McNulty; Tricia Ryan; Jennifer Tucker;

NOP-020: Sound and Sensible Organic Certification
Instructor: Brian McNulty; Tricia Ryan; Jennifer Tucker;

NOP-030: Fundamentals of Inspection
Instructor: Brian McNulty; Tricia Ryan; Jennifer Tucker;

NOP-040: Compliance and Enforcement: Adverse Actions, Appeals, and Reinstatements
Instructor: Brian McNulty; Tricia Ryan; Jennifer Tucker;

NOP-060: Import Oversight Essentials
Instructor: Brian McNulty; Tricia Ryan; Jennifer Tucker;

- **Develop More Courses**
 - Dairy Compliance
 - Traceability Techniques
 - Advanced Inspections
 - Materials Reviews
 - Certification Administration
 - Sampling and Testing
- **Deepen Assessments**

Investing in Data Integrity

- Protecting organic integrity requires **accurate and timely data**
- Data management is often **invisible labor**
- **Organic Integrity Database Data Quality Dashboard**
 - Makes data labor visible
 - Shows certifiers strengths and weaknesses in their data
- **Investing in INTEGRITY Awards**
 - Based on data quality and quantity at the start of 2019
 - Examples: Regular data updates, use of product taxonomy, including acreage and livestock counts, complete information



“Investing in INTEGRITY” Winners!

- California Certified Organic Farmers
- Colorado Department of Agriculture
- County of Marin Organic Certified Agriculture
- Georgia Crop Improvement Association
- Global Organic Alliance
- New Mexico Department of Agriculture
- One-Cert, Incorporated
- Primus Labs



Questions?

