

GCIA Organic Program E-News

March 2019

Please review the information below for important updates and information regarding the organic certification program.

- GCIA Policy on crop rotation; available [HERE](#)
- Processor/Handler Organic System Plan now includes section on biodiversity; available [HERE](#)
- Instructions for mass balance & traceback now online; available [HERE](#)
- Greenhouse Organic System Plan now includes an addendum for hydroponic & aquaponic production; available [HERE](#)
- REMINDER: Organic System Plans must be updated anytime a new product is added; new inputs are planned for use; any changes of name, operator, ownership; when new land is acquired; changes in storage locations, custom operations, label changes, suppliers, shipping/receiving, equipment, pest management, etc. Be sure to notify GCIA of any changes to your OSP.

See below for information from USDA AMS on:

- Becoming a USDA Certified Vendor
- USDA Seeks Five Nominees for the National Organic Standards Board

Should you have any questions or need further information, please contact our organic staff at the office (706-542-2351) or via email:

Johnny Luke, Organic Program Manager (johnny.luke@georgiacrop.com)

Jeanne Gonzales, Organic Program Assistant (jeanne.gonzales@georgiacrop.com)

Billie Dunn, Outside Services Program Assistant (billie.dunn@georgiacrop.com)

Please be sure to visit the [GCIA Organic Program website](#) for additional resources.

Lessons on Becoming a Certified USDA Vendor

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) invites you to a live, interactive webinar on lessons learned in becoming an approved USDA Foods vendor. Each year, AMS purchases over 300 different food products to feed millions of school children, families, and other qualified individuals through USDA's nutrition assistance and international food aid programs. Find out how your company can participate in these purchases that support American agriculture. The webinar is FREE. However, registration is required and space is limited.

[Register](#)

Areas covered in the webinar include:

- Steps to become an “approved vendor”
- System for Award Management (SAM) Tips to Register
- Guide through our Commodity Procurement website
- Frequently Asked Questions

Andrea Lang, New Vendor Coordinator, AMS Commodity Procurement Program will be your speaker.

More details are available on our website, [Become a USDA Foods Vendor](#).

USDA Seeks Five Nominees for the National Organic Standards Board

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) seeks nominations of qualified individuals for five open seats on the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The 15-member advisory board considers and makes recommendations on the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances and other issues involving the production, handling and processing of USDA certified organic products.

Each member serves a five-year term and represents specific sectors of the organic community. Current openings include:

- One individual with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation.
- One individual who owns or operates an organic farming operation or an employee of such individuals.
- One individual who owns or operates a retail establishment with significant trade in organic products or an employee of such individuals.
- Two individuals who own or operate an organic handling operation or an employee of such individuals.

USDA is also accepting nominations of qualified candidates to fill future unexpected vacancies in any of the [seven categories representing the scope of the organic agricultural community](#).

Deadline for nominations is May 17, 2019.

Members attend two in-person meetings each year and participate in bi-monthly subcommittee conference calls. USDA reimburses NOSB members for approved travel and associated lodging expenses.

Nominations must include a resume and an [AD-755 application form](#). Nominations may also include an optional cover letter and letters of reference.

Nominations may be emailed to Michelle.Arsenault@usda.gov at the National Organic Program or mailed to: USDA-AMS-NOP, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Room 2642-S., Ag Stop 0268, Washington, DC 20250-0268. Electronic submissions are preferred.

Additional information:

- [Federal Register Notice](#)
- [Call for Nominations Flyer \(pdf\)](#)
- NOSB Recommendation on [Criteria for NOSB Membership \(pdf\)](#)

USDA [NOSB Nominations Process](#) web page.