

Certification Notes & Tips

From the office of WI OCIA #1 and MOSA

October 2000

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Avoiding Problems When Choosing Products, Part 2

As the growing season comes to a close, harvesting is top priority for most farmers and sourcing acceptable inputs for next season's organic production takes a back seat. As you head into winter and begin to think about new products you may want use, keep in mind the following:

• **Remember that inspectors are not employees of MOSA/OCIA and do not have the final word on product acceptability.** Inspectors are independent contractors that often work for many different agencies. If an inspector has recommended a product for use or has looked at a label and made a guess on the acceptability of a product, this is not sufficient verification of product acceptability. **Always contact the office before you use a new product to get a definitive response!** A written statement of verification can be sent to you at your request.

• **Use your materials lists!** The MOSA packet contains the OMRI book, which lists products by brand name and generic name. Select

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Sourcing Certified Organic Product/Feed

Are you bringing certified organic (CO) product such as feed or ingredients into your CO operation from a secondary source? Then you must have verification that the agency certifying that product is acceptable to your certifier. This does not include items such as mineral mixes, seeds or pest control products that need to be approved for use but not certified organic.

- **OCIA** requires that all CO product sourced for feed, ingredients, etc. be from an OCIA certified operation. If you need to buy product from a non-OCIA certified operation, you must document your efforts to obtain OCIA product. Then you must have a document review completed on that secondary producer prior to purchasing the product.
- **MOSA** requires that a document review be completed for all CO product sourced for feed, ingredients, etc. prior to purchasing the product unless the product is MOSA certified or the other certifier is USDA Accredited (OGBA, OTCO, FVO, QAI and others). The only exception is for certifiers that have already had their programs approved by MOSA through a previous recent document review.

Therefore if you are looking to buy some CO corn or hay for your CO dairy cows this winter or would like to buy CO raspberries to make CO jam, check with the office regarding the status of that product prior to purchasing the product. We will let you know if a document review is required and what fees are entailed.

Important News for OCIA Producers Concerning the Use of GMO Seeds and GMO Inoculants

2000 OCIA Standards reflect a significant change in OCIA's position on split production and GMOs. A farm or field will not be admissible for OCIA certification if that farm or field is under the care or control of a farmer who grows genetically modified (GMO) crops or livestock, or sells GMO seed *anywhere* in that farmer's operation (Standard 2.2.2 and 2.2.3). Please note that both 1999 and 2000 OCIA Standards prohibit the use of GMO inoculants and land where GMO-inoculated seeds are used may be decertified for three years. Be sure to read your 2000 Standards, mailed out in early July, for further changes that may affect your operation.

Important Bio Cal News MOSA Prohibits Bio Cal Also

MOSA has prohibited the use of Bio Cal, a liming material produced by Midwest BioAg, Blue Mounds, WI. MOSA producers cannot use Bio Cal beginning on January 1, 2001. OCIA producers have been prohibited from using Bio Cal since July 1st, 2000.

**WI OCIA #1 and
MOSA Certification
Review Committee**

Committee Chair
Wendy Everham
Mineral Point, WI

Paul Deustch
Westby, WI

Lowell Gause
Darien, WI

Matt Messa
Downsville, WI

Lynn Tschumper
Stoddard, WI

Pat Zietlow
Cashton, WI

Rotation Policy

MOSA and WI OCIA #1's rotation policy allows for only one year of beans in a row on a field, two years of corn and only four years of continuous row crops, with at least two of the four years having a cover crop/plow down. The Certification Review Committee considers small grains to be a row crop unless they are underseeded with a hay/cover crop. A vegetable operation must also follow this rotation policy being sure not to exceed the four years of row crops. The non-row crop year must be a hay or cover crop. Crops/fields have been decertified for not managing acreage within these parameters.

Bills of Lading (BOLs)

If you received a letter requiring you to use bills of lading, they are available at the WI OCIA office. BOLs are preprinted quadruplicate forms great for maintaining your audit trail. A completed OCIA BOL may be sent to OCIA Intl. to facilitate the issuing of a transaction certificate, TC. OCIA BOL's are available from the office at a cost of \$1 per BOL. Please send a check and note indicating that you would like BOL's and we will put them in the mail to you immediately.

**WI OCIA #1 and MOSA
Staff**

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Please call us with any
questions ..

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only products that are listed by brand name, page 71. If you are interested in using a product that is not on the brand name list, check with the MOSA/OCIA office before use. OCIA producers should use the OCIA materials list to check product ingredients, and then call the MOSA/OCIA office before use to get the final word from the office.

•Remember that it can be extremely time consuming for the MOSA/OCIA office to research products that are not on the OMRI or the OCIA materials lists. Currently, the office charges \$30/hour to look into products that take more than a few minutes of research. We hope that this fee will encourage the use of products that have already been approved

OFFICE HOURS 9am to 5 pm

The WI OCIA #1/MOSA office is open from 9am to 5pm. During office hours, Certification Staff are available to answer questions or update you on where you are at in the certification process. Please call the office between 9am and 5pm!

Renting Land?

If you are renting land, that land must be under your certification and therefore must be listed on your field histories and Farm Plan Questionnaire. If the land was certified and managed by the owner and now you arrange to manage the land and harvest crops, that land must be certified by you, the person managing the land. If you own and manage certified land and choose to rent it out to another person, then that land should no longer be listed on your field histories and Farm Plan. It is the responsibility of the person managing the organic land to maintain the land in accordance with the organic standards. Please call the office during office hours with any questions.

Changes to the OCIA Standards

The deadline for proposed changes to the OCIA Standards is November 1, 2000. If you want to submit proposed changes, please contact the WI OCIA office and we will update you on the necessary steps, forms, etc.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Be sure to inform the OCIA/MOSA office if your address, phone number or other information has changed.

MIDWEST ORGANIC SERVICES ASSOCIATION

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ORGANIC CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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