



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

December 8, 2016

TO: CALIFORNIA ORGANIC PRODUCTS ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE (COPAC)

A teleconference of the California Organic Products Advisory Subcommittee has been scheduled. Enclosed is the agenda.

Date: Monday, December 19, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833
Room 115
(916) 900-5030

Committee members will use the following information to access the conference call:

Dial-in Number: (888) 950-9408

Pass Code: 26522

Members of the public may join the conference call by going to any of the following locations:

Melody Meyer, 4710 Rodeo Gulch Lane, Soquel, CA, 95073

Mindee Jeffery, 720 Center Blvd., Fairfax, CA 94930

Vernon Peterson, 257 N. 6th Ave., Kingsburg, CA 93631

Marin County Department of Agriculture, 1682 Novato Blvd. Ste. 150A, Novato, CA 94947

Jane Sooby, 2155 Delaware Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Notification of committee meetings and their agendas can be found via the Internet at the following website address: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/meetings.html>.

Please find the enclosed agenda. If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,

Danny Lee
Supervising Special Investigator

Enclosures

cc: Gary Leslie



**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
California Organic Products Advisory Subcommittee (COPAC) Meeting**

**Monday, December 19, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Teleconference

**California Department of Food and Agriculture
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive
Room 101
Sacramento, CA 95833**

AGENDA

1. Roll Call/Introductions
2. Prioritize implementation recommendations from the Organic Stakeholders Work Group report discussion
3. Timelines for recommendations report for January COPAC meeting
4. Public Comment
5. Next Meeting
6. Adjournment

All meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodation as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, or if you have questions regarding the public meeting, please contact Laurel Rudolph at (916) 900-5030. Requests for reasonable accommodation should be made no later than three (3) days before the meeting.

A. Streamline the CDFA registration process, enhance data collection, and maximize data collection:

- Add a “less than acreage” check off box on the registration form for small farms.
- Real time data information for crop and acreage shared.
- Include Organic data information within all CDFA programs
- Post Commodity information on CDFA Website.
- Renew registration through ACAs

B. Improve Enforcement Activities and Enhance Training.

- Post enforcement actions on CDFA website.
- Create a newsletter or memo to be sent out to interested parties announcing enforcement activities.
- Post pesticide residue results on the website.
- Educating certifiers on what commodities information they can access on the SOP database.
- Increase training and outreach for the counties, regarding organics and organic certifiers’ rolls in the industry.
- Uniformity throughout the counties when inspecting organics.
- Create exit exam for county trainings.
- Add certifications to trainings.
- Consistency of training and shared information from county to county.
- Add a minimum annual training for county personal who enforce the organic industry.
- Evaluate and analyze current county training for future training improvement.
- Share CDFA guidelines with county inspectors for improved enforcement.

C. Expand Outreach and Communication to Stakeholders.

- Educating registrants of what the SOP is providing with their registration fees.
- Information regarding inspections, answering why the county inspectors are at the site, i.e. a complaint or spot inspection.
- Add spot inspection information to newsletter/memo being sent out to interested parties.
- Creating a check in system with history of any and all inspections from all agencies for each farm.
- Increase organic outreach, educate the public and other farmers on the meaning of organics and what types of enforcement actions are done.
- SOP and CDFA to Increase online presence, i.e. Social media
- Create website presence for COPAC information.

D. Empower and Energize COPAC

- Set meeting dates a year in advance and announce upcoming meetings at current meeting.
- Moving location of the meeting throughout the state.
- Create memo of committee responsibilities for each position.
- Create form letter for recruitment.
- Additional activities at meetings i.e. field trips, guest speakers.
- Work on making the implementation of AB 1126 seamless.
- Streamline costshare application and information required. Less transfer of funds per individual.
- Ask representative from NOP to speak with COPAC regarding their organic procedures.
- Build email list to reach out to operations.
- Create newsletter with updates, vacancies, and meeting information to be sent out to ACAs and registrants.

E. Integrate Organic Throughout CDFA and Other Agencies

- Possibilities of CDPH streamlining registration process.
- Automate costshare application process.
- Work to find best way to ask Controller's office to allow electronic signature when applying for costshare.
- Require that ACA's apply for costshare on behalf of producer and money be sent to them.
- Utilize NOP website training 101 and 102 videos.
- Outline SOP agreements with other applicable agencies, i.e. California Department of Public Health.

F. Leverage California's SOP and California Organic Producers on a National Scale.

- Clarify what the Ag Statistics do for producers and logistics of sharing information with the Ag Statistics to get the burden off of the producer.
- Publish AG Statistics on website.