

Newsletter

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Funding and Grants Available

Each year, there are many grants available that can be of interest to those interested in sustainability or in the organic industry.

The following links are recommended sites to look for those that may be applicable to your operation.

USDA Rural Dev
www.rurdev.usda.gov

SARE
www.sare.org

Government Grants
www.grants.gov

USDA NRCS
www.nrcs.usda.gov

Further and updated grant information and deadlines are also posted on our facebook and twitter pages .

NEW OFFICE LOCATION AND STAFF

In a short year, we have outgrown our office space and will be relocating to Greenwood, Indiana, as of August 20th, 2012.

This decision was also made to reduce our teams travel time and, in return, lessen our carbon emissions.

The new office/contact information is as follows:

**70 East Main Street, Suite B,
Greenwood, IN 46143**
New phone number (317) 865-9700
New Fax (317) 865-9707

Please update your records, effective 8/20/12!

We would also like to welcome **Luella Mazingo**, Certification Officer/Inspector and **Allen Moody**, Staff Inspector, to the ICO team.

Luella has a background in farming, wine and cheese making.

Allen has been inspecting for ICO for a number of years, owned/operated a dairy farm and processing operation. Both have great passion and experience in the industry and add value to our team!

ICO will be utilizing either staff or contracted inspectors based upon cost/expertise.

Additionally, **Linda Chaussée**, an ECOCERT employee, joined our office in January 2012, in an effort to better assist cosmetic clients in the U.S. !

We are excited to have her and all of our new staff aboard !

QR Codes to verify certification!

We are working on your unique QR Code that will link to your most recent certificate.

It will be coming soon with further information! These can be used on certified products and can assist in verification/authentication of certified products.



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

NOP REGULATION UPDATES

The Organic regulations and the guidance issued by the National Organic Program change over time.

There are many small changes which will not be noticeable to most organic operators and may be huge to some of you.

It is impossible in this space to provide each of the changes which have occurred over the past six months but here are some which will affect many of you.

- Sodium Nitrate (Chilean Nitrate) will be totally prohibited for crop production by the end of October 2012. There will be no exceptions to this.
- Pectin - Only non-amidated forms of non-organic pectin, typically added to thicken jams and jellies, will be allowed when organic pectin is not commercial available. Otherwise only organic pectin will be allowed. Transition period until October 21, 2012.
- Fenbendazole and Moxidectin are approved for use as paraciticides on an emergency basis for organic livestock, not allowed for slaughter stock. Milk and milk products from treated livestock may not be labeled organic for 90 days.
- Sulfur dioxide (smoke bombs) will be prohibited for use as a rodent control after October 20, 2012.
- Effective January 1, 2013, hops, typically used in organic beer production, must be organic.

Certified Organic by ICO, LLC

New office information as of
8/20/12

70 East Main Street, Suite B
Greenwood, IN 46143

Phone: 317-865-9700

Fax: 317-865-9707

Email
info@indianacertifiedorganic.com

Website:
www.indianacertifiedorganic.com



Carbon Footprint Assessment

ICO has just completed its first data collection for its first Carbon Footprint Assessment within ECOCERT Group. It is our hope to utilize the results to help strategize and put a plan in place to lessen our carbon emissions.

It is also our goal to payback at 100%, through for example the planting of trees. The results of this assessment will be complete in early 2013.

You may find more information about the 2011 actions implemented by ECOCERT Group to compensate its carbon emissions by visiting ECOCERT website <http://www.ecocert.com/en/>.

DROUGHT

For updates to the drought situation, please visit your local State Department of Agriculture or for updates about USDA's efforts to respond to the drought, please visit <http://www.usda.gov/drought>.

As the drought continues in much of the United States, please keep us informed as to your situation should you need to alter your Organic System Plan.

If there are modifications necessary/appropriate, we will be ready to write a temporary variance to be presented to the USDA to provide for modifications to be allowable under NOP standards. In order to do so, we will need specific information as to your situation.

The best way to do so is to start documenting as early as you can with records/pictures, etc. Also, please provide us with any notices sent out by your local authorities that may be helpful in consideration of any variance submitted.

The USDA is keeping a current list of the variances that have been granted, located [here](#).

Currently there are several variances being written/submitted throughout the US to assist organic operations. These include: (for livestock) changes in dry matter intake and outdoor access to pasture, CRP land that would otherwise be eligible for organic certification to be allowed to be harvested as hay.

"Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced an additional 44 counties in 12 States as primary disaster areas.

He also announced that the USDA will utilize nearly \$16 million in financial and technical assistance to immediately help livestock and crop producers in 19 states cope with the adverse impacts of the historic drought.

These funds can be used to assist in moving water to livestock in need, providing emergency forage for livestock, and rehabilitating lands severely impacted by the drought.

Together these efforts should provide nearly \$30 million to producers struggling with drought conditions," per [Press Release](#) announced on August 8th, 2012.

Indiana Certified Organic Program

ICO has gone through many changes over the past 18 months. Forms, procedures and personnel had changed and you, as our clients, may have wonder why :

The simple answer – We are attempting to improve our certification process.

We are attempting to get complete information from each of you so that we can complete the certification process in a timely manner.

2011 certification was completed earlier than 2010 certification.

We are working to complete 2012 even earlier!

Every fall ICO goes over its forms and reworks them to better serve our and your needs.

Between things during this busy time of year we would appreciate any constructive feedback you care to give us.

Tell us in writing, letters, emails, or sticky notes.

Tell us and tell us at our new address!



Certification body
for sustainable development