



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**WSDA ORGANIC FOOD PROGRAM
BRAND NAME MATERIAL REGISTRATION**

September 9, 2011

Dear Organic Input Material Registrant,

It is time to renew the registration of your organic input material for inclusion on the WSDA Organic Food Program's Brand Name Material List. Our registration list continues to grow, and currently includes 750 name brand products approved for use in certified organic production systems. Renewing your product registration(s) will ensure organic producers and handlers continue to have access to the tools they need for next year's production season. Everything you need to complete the renewal process is included in this envelope, and can also be found online at: <http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Organic/MaterialsLists.aspx>.

To avoid lapses in your product's registration, submit the renewal application form (AGR 2290), your registration fee, and any changes to your product(s) by October 15, 2011.

To avoid late fees, your renewal application must be postmarked by October 31, 2011.

Five Year Reviews – If you have products that were first registered with the Organic Program in 2006, you are required to undergo a five year review. This means you must submit full disclosure of your product formulation, ingredients, and manufacturing information. If your products are subject to the five year review requirement, the necessary directions, information, and forms are included in this envelope. Please note that the five year review process will not delay the renewal of your products' current registration.

Leadership Changes – We are currently transitioning the coordination of our material registration services from Katherine Withey to me, Nathaniel Lewis. Earlier in the year, Katherine decided to redirect her efforts with our organic certification program and now coordinates the certification of livestock producers and food processors. I am stepping into Katherine's shoes from my previous duties of crop and livestock certification. I came to the Organic Food Program in 2009 with a Bachelor's of Science in organic chemistry and agricultural science from The Evergreen State College. My wife, child, and I also manage our own certified organic livestock and crop operation in Lewis County, Washington. I am looking forward to working with you to continue WSDA's nationally recognized material registration program. Below, I have highlighted a few issues relevant to our registrants, please take a moment to review.

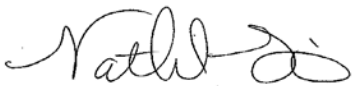
National Recognition – The National Organic Program (NOP) officially and publically recognized WSDA’s Brand Name Material Registration in policy memo 11-4 released on July 22, 2011. In this memo, we are specifically listed as an Accredited Certifying Agent that has a publically available list of approved products. This recognition from the NOP increases our visibility and validity among certifiers, and establishes our voice in the discussions surrounding product evaluation and registration. We thank you for continuing to register your products with WSDA Organic Program and being a part of this recognition.

Corn Steep Liquor – The debate on the classification of Corn Steep Liquor (CSL) produced via the traditional countercurrent corn wet milling process continues. At the April, 2011 National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) meeting, both majority and minority opinions were presented, and a motion was made to classify CSL as a non-synthetic substance. The vote on this motion was not decisive (not reaching a 2/3 majority), and the decision was tabled until the next meeting. We expect CSL to remain a major topic of discussion at the upcoming NOSB meeting in November. It is still unclear when the determination on CSL’s classification will become final and implemented, but we will keep all of our material registrants apprised of developments surrounding this issue.

Sodium Nitrate – This material, also known as ‘Chilean Nitrate,’ is included on 205.602, which is a list of non-synthetic substances prohibited for use in organic agriculture. Sodium nitrate is included on this list with an annotation which allows its use for up to 20% of a crop’s total nitrogen demand. At the recent April 2011 NOSB meeting, the board voted to relist sodium nitrate on the list of prohibited non-synthetic substances **without** the annotation. This would disallow all use of sodium nitrate in organic crop production. Once the NOP takes rulemaking actions on this recommendation, we will no longer be able to register products containing any amount of sodium nitrate. The implementation timeline of this rule change is not yet known, but, once finalized, any products containing sodium nitrate will need to undergo reformulation to remain on WSDA’s Brand Name Material List.

If you have questions about our material review process, please contact me at (360) 725-5492, FAX: (360) 902-2087 or EMAIL: nlewis@agr.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Nathaniel Lewis
Organic Material Registration Coordinator