

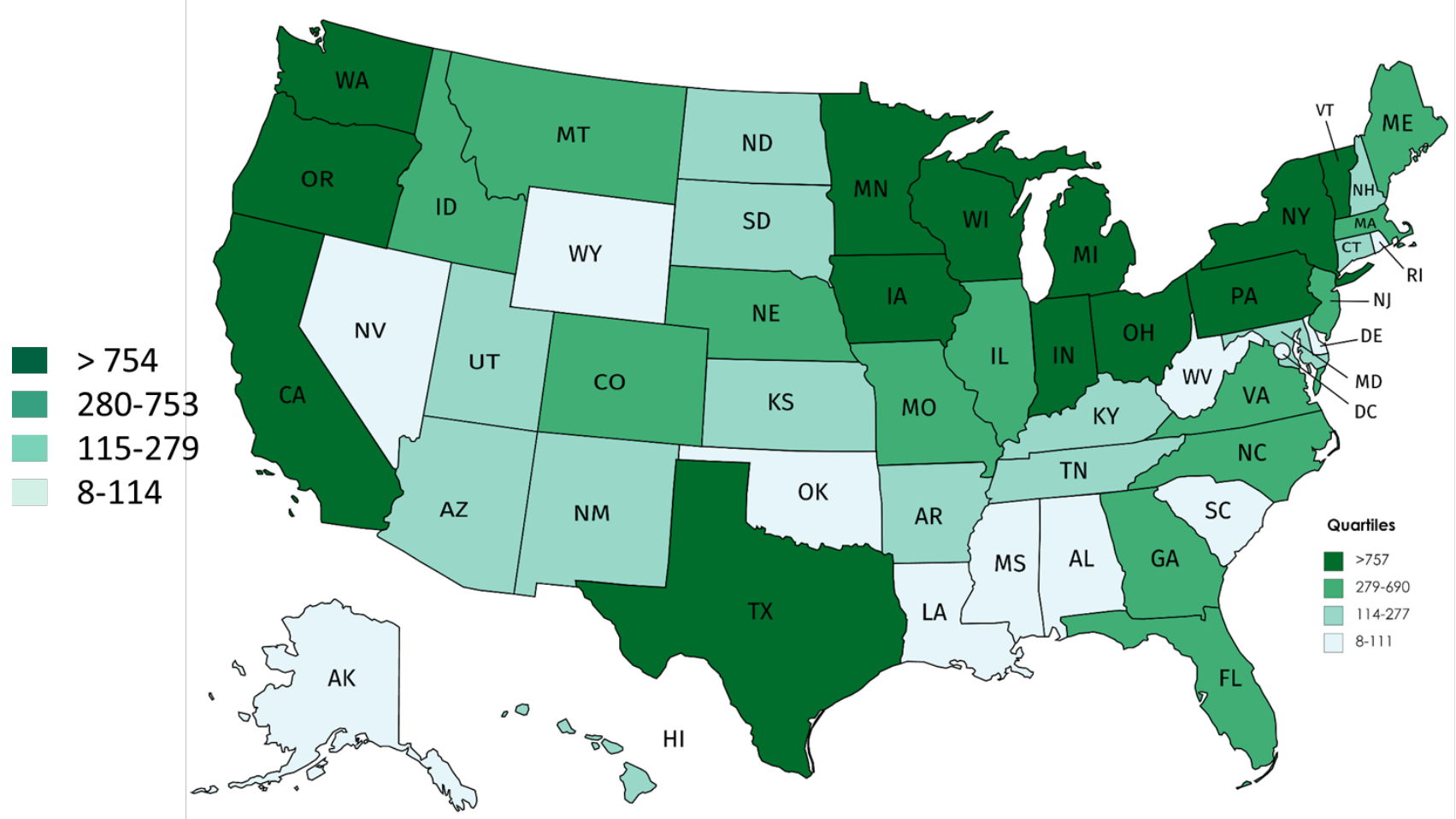
USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) National Organic Program

Update for the Spring 2021 National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) Meeting

**Presented by
The National Organic Program Team
April 2021**



Remembering Why We Are Here.....



28,454
U.S. Operations

Top 10 States

California	5,062
Wisconsin	1,954
New York	1,911
Pennsylvania	1,690
Washington	1,399
Iowa	1,081
Ohio	1,067
Minnesota	1,012
Indiana	967
Oregon	955

To Start 2021: **45,578** Certified Organic Businesses Worldwide

Hello from Team NOP!



Compliance & Enforcement Team



Standards Team



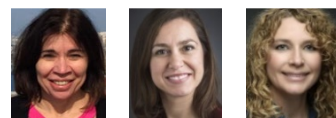
Accreditation Team



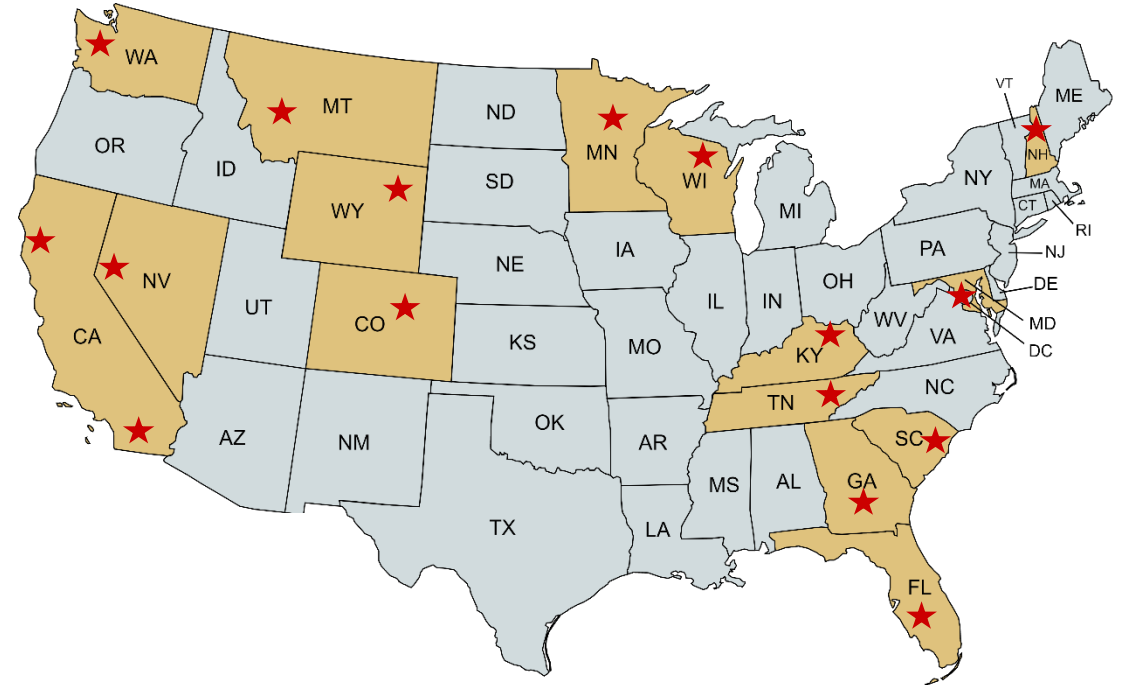
Trade Systems Team



International Team



Office of the Deputy Administrator Team



HOW DOES USDA SUPPORT ORGANIC FARMS & BUSINESSES?

USDA helps farmers with organic certification guidance, biodiversity and natural resources conservation, financial and production assistance and marketing. Whether you're already certified organic, considering transition, or working with organic producers, we have resources for you.

Visit: www.usda.gov/organic



CERTIFICATION + OVERSIGHT

Transitioning to Organic: [NOP](#)
 Get Certified: [NOP](#)
 Organic Certification Cost Share Assistance: [FSA](#)
 Find an Organic Operation/Ingredient: [NOP](#)
 Learn About USDA Organic: [NOP](#)



CONSERVATION RESOURCES

Conservation for Soil Health, Pest and Weed Management, and Pollinators: [NRCS](#)
 Conservation Management and Practice Assistance: [NRCS](#)
 Conservation Reserve Program: [FSA](#)
 Climate Resources: [USDA](#)



DATA + RESEARCH

Statistical Surveys and Data: [NASS](#)
 Commodity-Specific Production and Price Data: [AMS Market News](#)
 Research to Advance Organic Farming: [USDA](#)
 Trade and Export Data Analysis: [FAS](#)



FARMING RESOURCES

Farm Loans: [FSA](#)
 Crop Insurance: [RMA](#)
 Business Loans and Grants for Rural Communities: [RD](#)
 High Tunnels: [NRCS](#)
 Farmers.gov Online Community: [USDA](#)



MARKET PROMOTION

Local Food, Farmers Market, and Market Access Programs: [AMS](#)
 Local and Regional Food Sector: [AMS](#)
 Urban, Indoor, and Emerging Ag Grant Programs: [NIFA](#)

NOP: National Organic Program | FSA: Farm Service Agency | NRCS: Natural Resources Conservation Service | USDA: U.S. Department of Agriculture | NASS: National Agricultural Statistics Service | AMS: Agricultural Marketing Service | FAS: Foreign Agricultural Service | RMA: Risk Management Agency | RD: Rural Development | NIFA: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Many hands across USDA support the Organic Community

National Organic Program FY 2021 Goals



- 1** **Strong Organic Control Systems** **Trusted People, Processes, and Tools**
- 2** **Robust Enforcement** **Consistent and Fair Market for All**
- 3** **Develop Standards** **Open, Transparent, Collaborative Processes**
- 4** **Engage Partners and Stakeholders** **Advance Initiatives & Clarify Requirements**

1

Strong Organic Control Systems

People | Processes | Tools

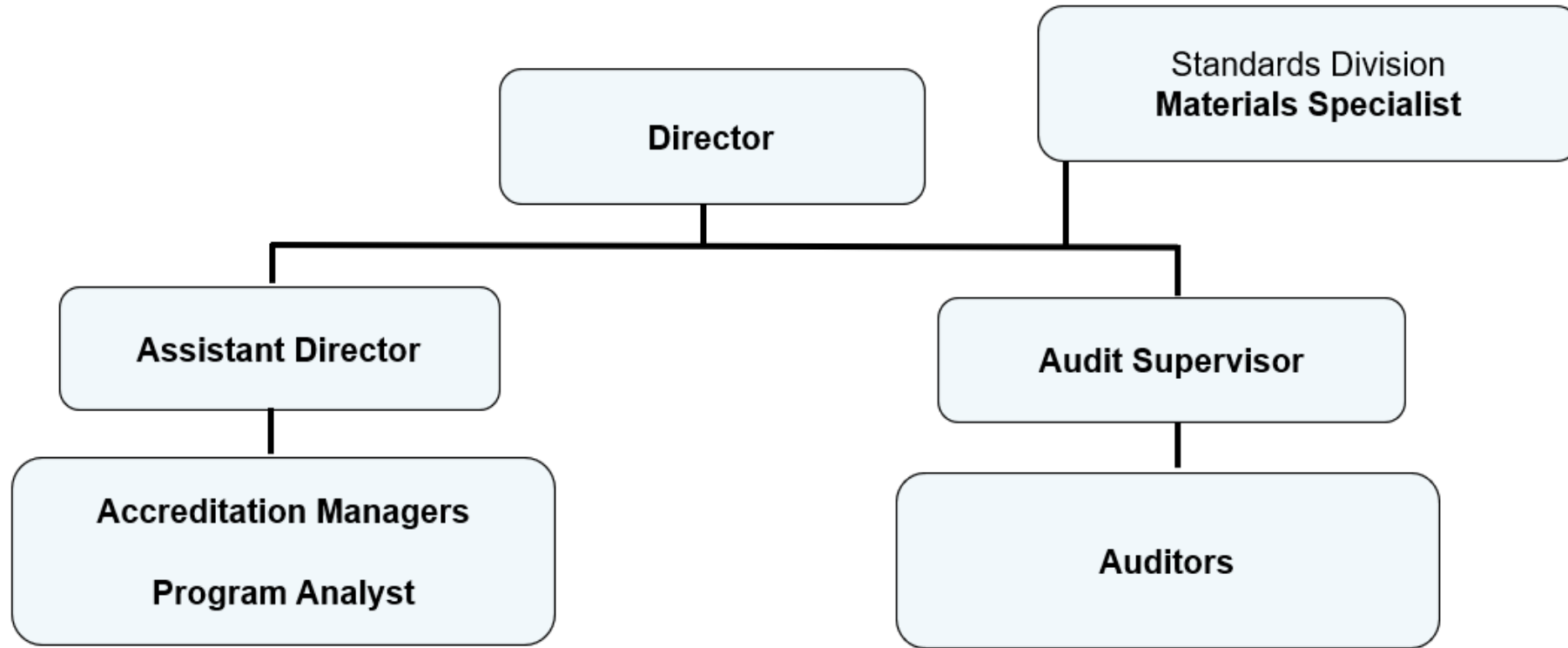
Risk-Based
Auditing and
Accreditation

Organic Import
Certificates

Data Analytics
Strategy

Trade
Partner
Engagement

Accreditation Division Update



Close Collaboration with **Compliance and Enforcement**
Imports Team, Compliance Specialists, Livestock Specialists

2021 NOP Data Quality Award



CCOF



CDA



CDA



GOA



IDALS



MOCA



NOFA-NY

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service | National Organic Program



PAO



UDAF



YDA

Congratulations, 2021 Winners!

2021 NOP Accreditation Director Award For Certifier Communication



Spring 2021 Update: Import Certificates



Organic INTEGRITY Database: Lists Certified Operations
TO BE: Certifier Generates Import Certificate Data

Organic Certifiers Provide Certificate/Data TO
Final Certified Exporter (Shipment, Monthly, Seasonal)

Exporter Provides Certificate/Data to Trade Filers
(Importers/Brokers)

U.S. Importers / Customs Brokers File Entries in ACE



USDA Receives ACE Data |
Validates Against Approved INTEGRITY Certificates

Feedback | Data Validation

Global Organic Oversight Project



Phase 1

Begin Summer/Fall 2020

- Global Datawarehouse
- Visual Data Analytics Reporting Platform
- Data Ingestion Technology
- Creation of Data Lake
- Integration with USDA Dashboards

Phase 2

Begin Summer/Fall 2021

- Global Import and Export Certificate Portal (GLOBAL)
- Integrity Database Modernization
- APHIS Data Integration
- GLOBAL Certificate Data Reconciliation
- Compliance Enhancements

Phase 3

Begin TBD

- ACCREDIT Modernization
- Blockchain Technology Integration

Organic Equivalence Arrangements



Established Arrangements

1. Canada (2009)
2. European Union (2012)
3. Japan (2014, 2020)
4. Korea (2014)
5. Switzerland (2015)
6. Taiwan (2020)
7. United Kingdom (2021)

Supporting Organic Integrity ...

- Rigorous auditing of a government's organic control system
- Regular peer reviews to verify program integrity
- Organic Working Group collaboration on regulatory changes, compliance issues, and patterns



U.S. - India Recognition Arrangement

- January 2021 – USDA announced ending U.S.-India Organic Recognition, as India’s organic control system was determined to be insufficient to adequately protect the integrity of the USDA organic seal.
- 18-month transition period:
 - July 12, 2021: operations certified by APEDA-accredited certifiers apply for direct certification with USDA-accredited certifiers.
 - July 12, 2022: ALL India organic products/ ingredients must be certified USDA organic by USDA-accredited certifier.
- After transition, organic certification in India will operate like any country that does not have a trade arrangement with the U.S.
- NOP India webpage has additional resources and information.

2

Robust Enforcement

Fast & Fair Complaint Case Management

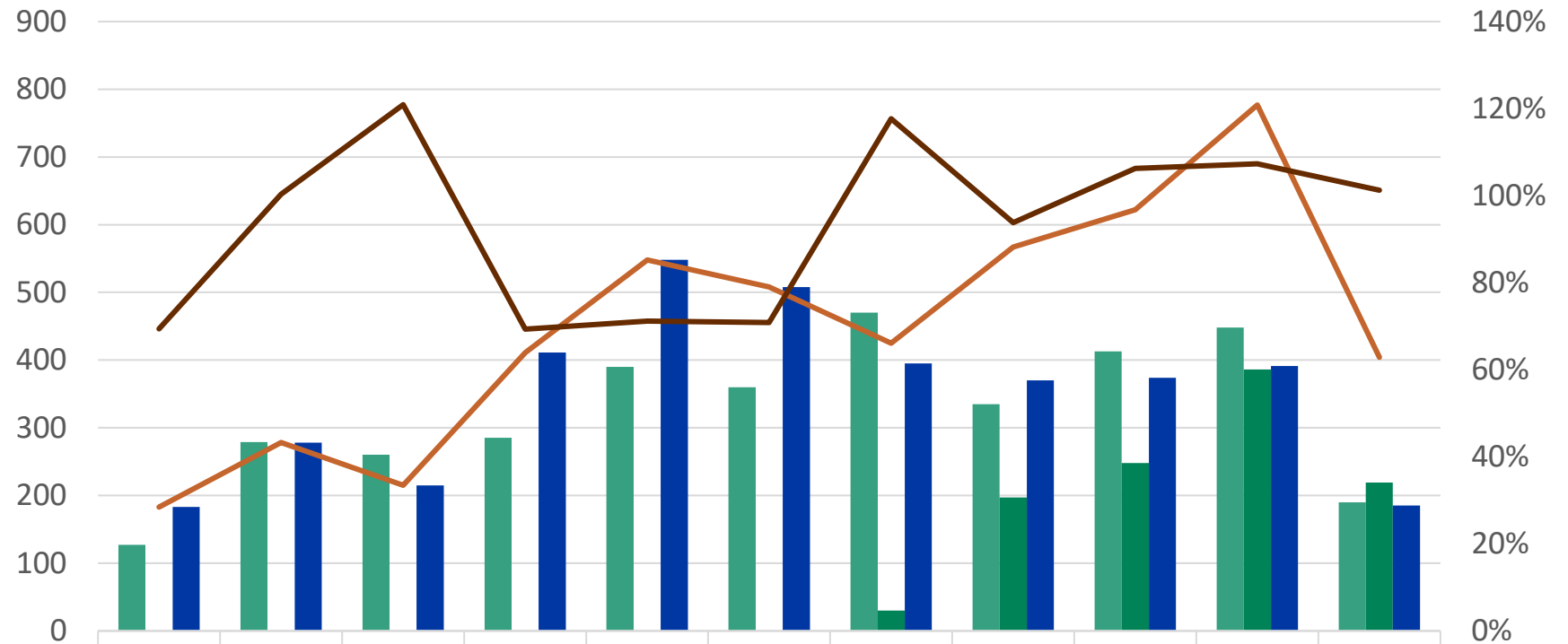
Risk-Based Regional Surveillance

Livestock Compliance Program

Collaboration: Deploy Many Hands

NOP Inquiries and Investigations by Fiscal Year

* Fiscal year 2021 numbers as of 4/1/2021



Completed Investigations	127	279	260	285	390	360	470	335	413	448	190
Resolved Inquiries							30	197	248	386	219
New Investigations	183	278	215	411	548	508	395	370	374	391	185
Total Incoming	183	278	215	411	548	508	425	567	622	777	404
Percentage completed	69%	100%	121%	69%	71%	71%	118%	94%	106%	107%	101%

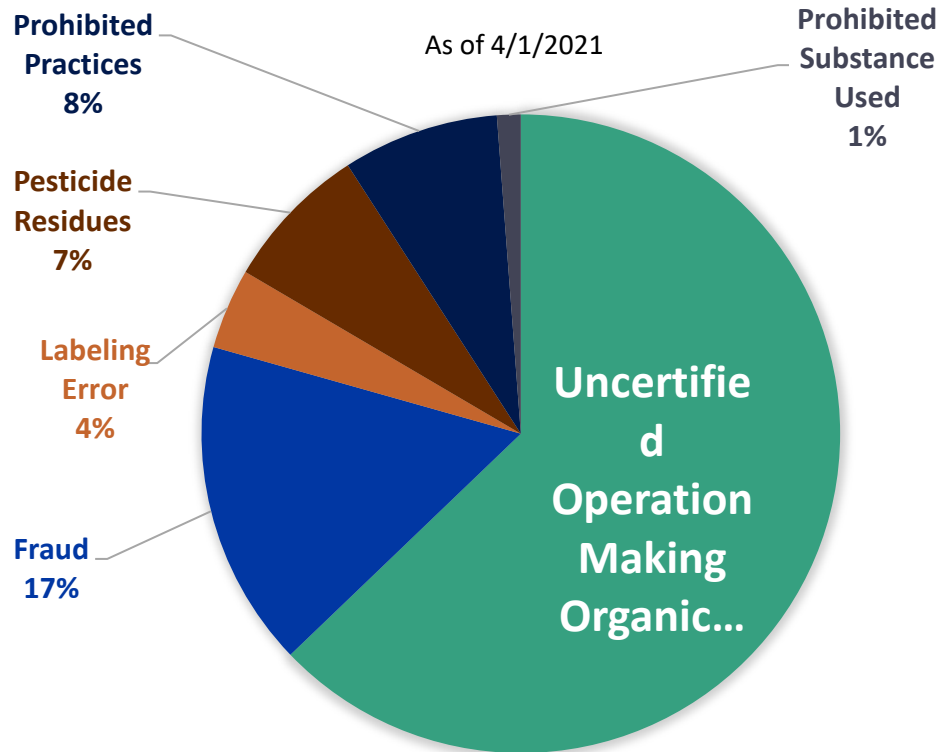
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Enforcement Dashboard



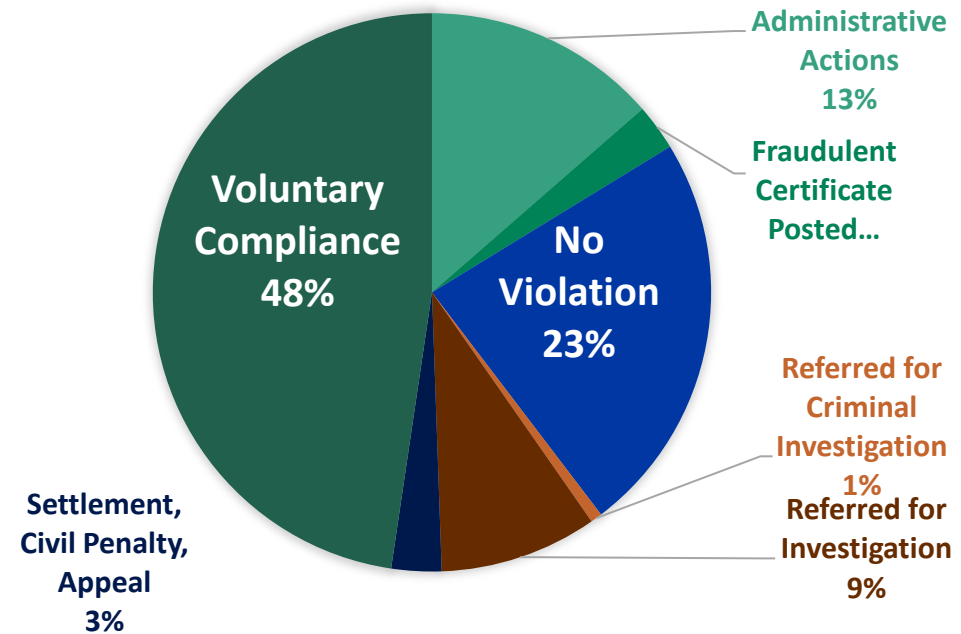
417 OPEN COMPLAINTS BY TYPE

As of 4/1/2021



449 CLOSED CASES BY OUTCOME

12 months ending 4/1/2021



Import Oversight



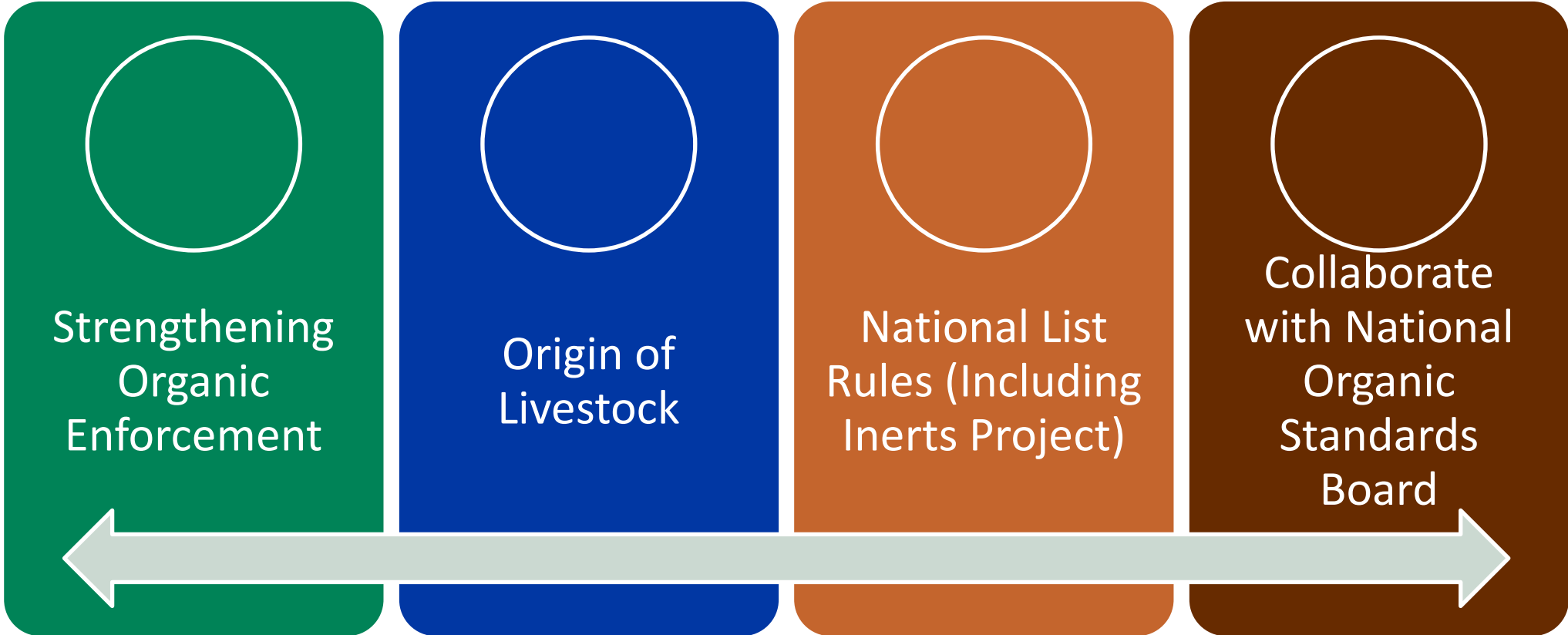
- The NOP continues to use import data to assess trends of organic commodities
- Our surveillance work is currently using agronomic data to evaluate:
 - Organic corn and wheat in the Black Sea region
 - Organic soybeans from India
 - Organic blueberries from Latin America
- Spotlight: Blueberries
 - Data showed a significant increase in organic blueberry imports since 2017
 - Conducting yield analysis to assess feasibility of organic production



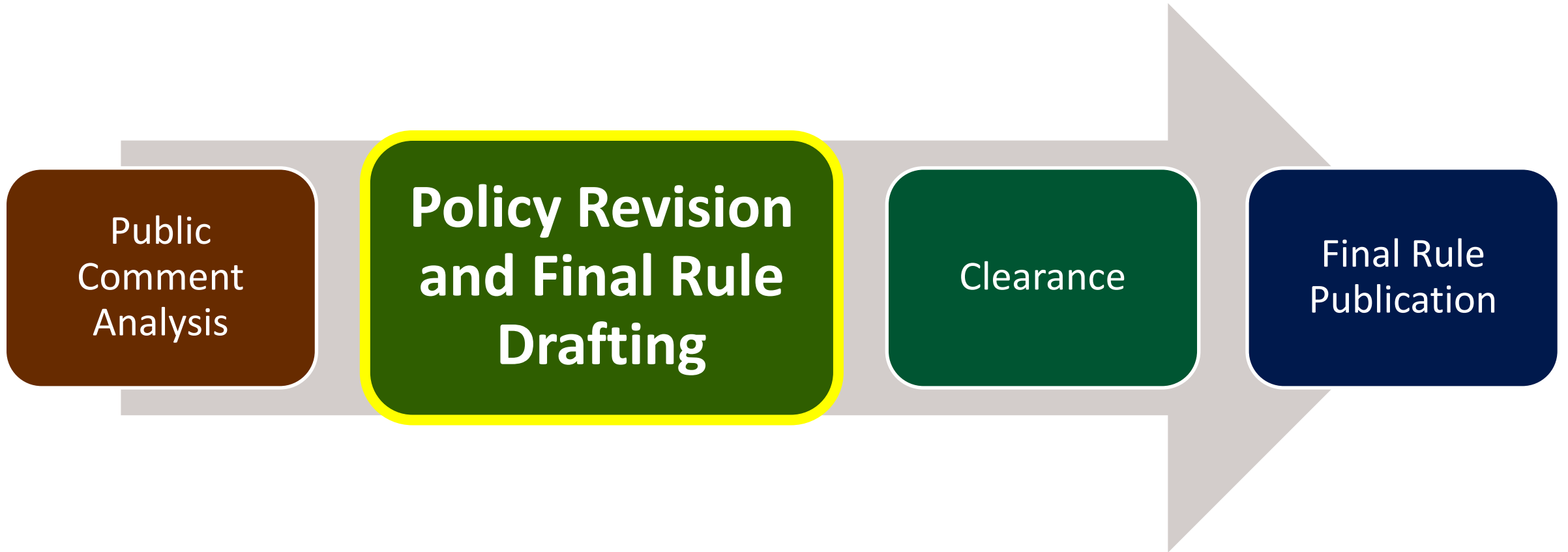
2021- Expanding Livestock Compliance



3 Develop Standards



Strengthening Organic Enforcement Update



<https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/strengthening-organic-enforcement-proposed-rule>

Rules to be published since Fall 2020

- Final Rule for Spring 2019 Recommendations: Oxalic acid dihydrate, Pullulan, and Collagen gel casing.
- Proposed Rule for Fall 2019 Recommendations: Potassium hypochlorite, Fatty alcohols, and Dairy cultures.
- Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to address EPA List 3 & EPA List 4.
- Proposed Rule for Sunset Recommendations.

Call for Board Nominations



Individual who owns or operates an organic farming operation (or employee of)



Individual with expertise in areas of environmental protection and resource conservation



Individual who represents public interest or consumer interest groups



Individual with expertise in the fields of toxicology, ecology, or biochemistry

www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/nosb/nomination-process

4

Engage Partners and Stakeholders

Organic Imports
Interagency
Working Group

Outreach:
Organic Import
Certificates

New Courses:
Organic Integrity
Learning Center

Human Capital
Initiative

Engagement
Events

2021 Certifier & Inspector Training



- NOP Accredited Certifiers Training in collaboration with the Accredited Certifiers Association and International Organic Inspectors Association
- Over 600 virtual attendees
- 67 Accredited Certifiers



Organic Integrity Learning Center



Organic Regulations and Retail Labeling



Input Material Review

- **Free, online** training
- **7** new courses, **21** total
- **5,100+** learner accounts
- **New** microlearning modules

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification/training>

Inter-Agency Import Oversight



- CBP CTAC: Facilitates information and resource sharing between participating government agencies (PGA) to prevent, deter and investigate violations of U.S. import and export laws.
- Ability to leverage CBP tools and personnel.
- Increased collaboration between PGA's, CBP HQ and CBP Ports of Entry.



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

Wild-Caught Fish Update

- Congress directed USDA to provide a report on the feasibility and appropriateness of developing organic production, handling, and labeling standards for wild caught seafood in their FY 2021 Omnibus Joint Explanatory Statement
- 180 stakeholders attended the March 18th Listening Session
- The slides, chat record, and session transcript are posted to the AMS website.
- The Report to Congress is forthcoming and will be posted when ready.



Focusing on Human Capital



- 2020 highlighted urgent needs for qualified organic inspectors: virtual & around the world
- Continues to be a pre-competitive problem
- NOP will release a Call for Proposals at start of May 2021

Certifiers, ACA & IOIA

National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)

National Organic Program

Industry/Community Groups

Peer Review 2020 - Results



Documented Assessment Procedure

Need policy for the timely completion of assessments

Satellite Office Assessment Process

Need a process for completing certifier satellite office assessments

Positive Comments



Growth of Organic Integrity Learning Center

Staff Recruitment

Improved Quality System

[https://www.ams.usda.gov/reports/
peer-review-ams-national-organic-program](https://www.ams.usda.gov/reports/peer-review-ams-national-organic-program)



We Look Forward to Seeing You Soon!

