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#### **OTCO Certification Procedures Revised**

The Oregon Tilth Certified Organic (OTCO) Program recently revised the OTCO Procedures Manual, which describes the certification process, confidentiality provisions, enforcement, adverse action, and due process. The new manual is available for download via the <a href="Oregon Tilth website">Oregon Tilth website</a>. Hard copies are also available upon request. For a summary of the changes made to the document you can review the full announcement on our website.

The new OTCO Procedures Manual became effective September 15, 2008. All certified operators and applicants must reference this document for information on current OTCO policies and practices in offering organic certification services. If you have any questions, please contact the Oregon Tilth office.

#### **USDA Makes \$22 Million available for Certification Cost Share Fund**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced September 18th that \$22 million in federal funds are available for organic certification cost assistance. The funds are available for producers and handlers of organic agricultural products in any state of the United States of America, its territories, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Oregon Tilth, along with many partner organizations, advocated for this program during work on the most recent Farm Bill.

Funds should be available for distribution through state agricultural agencies before the end of the year. Each state must apply for their share of federal cost-share funds through the USDA National Organic Program. The USDA plans to allocate funds in proportion to the number of organic producers and handlers within each state. The states, in turn, will reimburse each eligible producer or handler up to 75 percent of its organic certification costs, not to exceed \$750. Contact your state department of Agriculture for more information and to inquire if they will be seeking these funds. Learn more...

### **Organic Farm Prevails Against Pesticide Spray Company**

A Santa Cruz County jury, on September 29, 2008, found that the unintended contamination of organic crops caused by pesticides evaporating after application violated the rights of the organic crop grower. The ruling is the result of a case filed in May 2007 by <a href="Jacobs Farm/Del Cabo (Jacobs Farm">Jacobs Farm</a> Del Cabo (Jacobs Farm) against pesticide application company Western Farm Service, Inc. The lawsuit claimed that Western Farm Service sprayed the toxic pesticides chlorpyrifos, diazinon and dimethoate on crops near Jacobs (organic) Farm, and that those chemicals contaminated their dill, sage, and rosemary.

The court ruled that pesticide applications by Western Farm Service resulted in trespass of the pesticides onto Jacobs Farm and were legally determined to be a nuisance depriving Jacobs Farm of the right to use and enjoy the land, caused by negligence on the part of Western Farm Services. The landmark ruling sends a clear message to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) that pesticides that evaporate and move to non-target property with wind or fog need to be strictly regulated to prevent future property damage. read full story...

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October 2008

**Oregon Tilth Certifed Organic** 

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# **Upcoming Events**

Natural Products Expo East Boston, MA Oct. 15 - 18th

Showcasing products and branded ingredients from 1,200 of the most passionate manufacturers, education from the experts, and networking events that'll be big news for you and your business. Learn more...

Western Organic Dairy Producers Alliance Grand Mound, WA Oct. 21 - 22nd

Annual gathering, business and information for Western states dairy producers. This year's conference will feature keynote speakers, WODPA business meeting, officer elections and panel discussions. Learn more...

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