Montana Organic Commodity Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

 December 2, 2021

 4pm -5:30pm

* Welcome-Christy Clark-Acting Director Dept. of Agriculture

Layla leaving. Grant apps, Stress assistance grant for mental health

* Introduce Yourself-All

Christy, GW, ET, SM, Brian Goldhahn, Lindsey Aull, Nate Powell Palm, Pat Carr, Nate Brown, Randy Hinebauch, Ian Foley, Bob Ballensky

* 2020 Minutes-Ed Tyanich

Motion to adjourn by Nate Powell Palm, seconded by Brian Goldhahn. Passed unanimously.

* USDA NOP Updates-G. Webster

Training and training

* SOE -Strengthening Organic Enforcement Spring 2022-in clearance-impact to brokers, seed dealers, handler/distributors will need to be certified-quantified at <10 estimate/electronic Import certificates, tracking & traceability through Integrity Database to be used with existing USDA import processes (Custom & Border Protection/ACE & CBP-ACE)- Late 2022

Nate Powell Palm stated that broker inspections will most likely not be allowed as virtual. Bob Ballensky said the vast majority of brokers licensed in Montana are not trading organic products.

* OLPP -Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices in legal with litigation-impact none -original rule updates in OSP’s, maybe minor tweaks
* OOL-Origin of Livestock Rule Spring 2022-in clearance-impact none other than Idaho heifer operations inquires non allowance
* NOSB Mtg-Ammonia Extract (stripped & concentrated ammonia), Sodium Nitrate, & other Highly Soluble Nitrogen sources prohibited/No new materials added or taken off list/ability to add items to agenda/Biodegradable biobased mulch film allowed
* USDA NOP Mid Term Audit 2/2021-G. Webster-
* NONC’s cleared 7, had 8+ ID as-Used current ODID number to base samples instead of January 1 so short 1 of residue and unannounced, left “now able to sell product” out of negative sample letter, labeling, administrative capacity, material review
* Approval procedure, internal file review, seed search policy, Wild Crop OSP needed one more question, no news bad news “thought”

Nate Powel Palm said that MTDA is well thought of by the NOP.

* MTDA involvement-OATS committee member/Organic Montana board, ACA board, IOIA member/MOA member
* Program Summary-Certify in MT-234P 71H, WY-P5 H6, N.D-1P, S.D-1H. and Idaho-P5 H2

Comments on price differential between organic and non-organic is leading to more people getting out of organics.

* Crop Insurance work x2 with them and clients
* Program Summary Excel-All discussion
* Program Future Strategies-staff use, contractor use, clients

The possibility of lowering the sales assessment cap from $5000 to $3000 was discussed as possibility to draw new clients.

New equipment: Keyboards for Thinkpads.

* Program Sales Assessments Chart-All discussion
* Program Status & Updates-G. Webster-16 residue samples- 1 detect-(Diflubenzuron @.058 tolerance @.060) 16 unannounced inspections, samples sent to state lab now with their new accreditation (cost is 1.5+- of previous, timeliness concern), CSB licensing position doing billing, Cost Share, and info (15% time) Internal Audit 2020 & 2021-All discussion
* Cost Share-Distributed
* $89,381.22 to 178 entities + $8,938.22 Admin. Allowance Accounting = $98,319.34
* USDA allotted $98,550.00 remaining $230.66.
* There were 26 applications @ $12,843.83 that were received but grant monies were used up. Reminder of various other grants also available in 2020 & 2021 thru USDA that clients utilized.
* Budget Summary-All
* Open Discussion-All
* MOCAC file review explanation-Ed Tyanich