



Feds reorganize National Organic Program leadership, structure

Barbara Robinson to head up NOP; Mark Bradley gets accreditation branch

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Tuesday announced organizational and structural changes for the National Organic Program (NOP).

The NOP, which is overseen by the AMS, is reorganizing into three branches: Standards Development & Review; Accreditation, Auditing & Training; and Compliance & Enforcement.

NOP Deputy Administrator for Transportation & Marketing Programs Barbara Robinson will assume "overall leadership" for the NOP in addition to her other duties, the agency said.

Former Deputy Administrator Mark Bradley will assume leadership for the Accreditation, Auditing & Training Branch. Bradley was working in the NOP as accreditation manager for more than a year before he assumed the role of Deputy Administrator.

Richard Mathews will head up the Standards Development & Review Branch.

No decision has been made for leadership of Compliance & Enforcement at this time, the agency said.

"The NOP has been experiencing growing pains along with the organic industry," said Lloyd Day, AMS administrator, "and this New Year brings an opportunity to make changes in the [NOP] to keep up with growth in the organic industry."

The NOP is also creating an electronic reading room, where all NOP records that can be made publicly available will be accessible electronically, including a new Q&A site to provide answers to questions posed to NOP.

Only answers posted on the Q&A site will constitute an official response from the NOP. The Q&A site will be a component of a reorganized NOP site called "NOP-AQSS" (Answers to Questions on the Standards by the Staff).

Details on the new reading room and NOP-AQSS will be forthcoming and posted in Today's News as soon as they are available, the agency said.